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red eye

Friday
NOVEMBER 28, 2008

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune publication

★ FREE ★

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ADOPTION

DISCRIMINATION

pride&prejudice

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WHAT'S THE DEAL?

TV land

It's not easy to find a silver lining to the economic meltdown, but here's one: inexpensive high-definition TVs, the Los Angeles Times reports.

Analyst Riddhi Patel of ISupply forecasts that prices of 47-inch liquid crystal display models will go as low as $800, 42-inch plasma sets to $500 and 32-inch LCDs to $400.

The Black Friday "door buster" specials often are gone in a day, but HDTV prices probably will take a big dip for the entire holiday season. If sales are weak, as many analysts predict, merchants desperate to clear out inventory might slash prices again.

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41 27

TODAY'S FORECAST

Soak up some rays while you still can.

SAT. **42** 28 Getting cloudy

SUN. **36** 26 Chance of snow

MON. **34** 27 Cold and gray

TUE. **39** 28 Mostly cloudy

2do

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Protecting your computer is a lot cheaper than having to repair or replace it, especially with 50 percent off all previous generation MacBook see-through hard shell cases at **speckproducts.com**.

To green
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To brainstorm
Think you know what the next big reality TV sensation will be? Submit your ideas for non-scripted shows at **talpacreative.com**, and if they option your idea you'll get paid.

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DOZENS KILLED IN MUMBAI ATTACKS

New York Times News Service

MUMBAI Indian authorities worked to gain control of the crisis in Mumbai on Friday, as commandos scoured two charred luxury hotels, searching for survivors of the bands of gunmen who unleashed a day and a half of chaos here.

At a third location, a Jewish community center where remnants of the well-organized squads of attackers appeared to have dug in, national security commandos dropped from a helicopter onto the roof and began an assault to retake the building shortly after 7 a.m. Over the next several hours, dozens of shots from assault rifles were heard.

Amid early indications that the sieges might be ending a final phase, fears were growing that the toll would rise past the 119 known dead. Late Thursday, smoke was still rising from one of the hotels, and people who escaped reported stepping around bodies. The wounded numbered some 300.

There remained much mystery around the group behind the attack, unusual in its scale, its almost theatrical boldness and its targeting of locales frequented by wealthy Indians and foreigners.

Two men who claimed to be among the gunmen called local television stations, demanding to speak with the government. They complained about the treatment of Muslims in India and about Kashmir, the disputed territory over which India and Pakistan have fought two wars.

Firefighters try to douse flames Thursday at the Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai after teams of gunmen unleashed attacks on the nation's commercial center. AP

3 Americans among injured

WASHINGTON At least three Americans were injured in a series of terrorist attacks in India that President Bush condemned as "despicable acts."

The State Department on Thursday urged Americans not to travel to the stricken city of Mumbai for at least 48-72 hours, as U.S. officials checked with Indian authorities and hospitals to learn more about the extent of casualties.

Department spokesman Robert McInturff said he could not identify those injured, but The Associated Press learned the name of one victim. Andi Varagon of Nashville, Tenn., called her mother from a hospital Thursday and said she had been shot in the arm and leg.

NYC subways on alert

Associated Press

NEW YORK Police bolstered security in subways and trains Wednesday after the government warned that Al Qaeda suicide bombers were contemplating an attack on New York's mass-transit systems during the holiday season.

An internal memo obtained by The Associated Press says the FBI has received a "plausible but unsubstantiated" report that Al Qaeda terrorists in late September may have discussed attacking the subway system.

"We have no specific details to confirm that this plot has developed beyond aspirational planning, but we are issuing this warning out of concern that such an attack could possibly be conducted during the forthcoming holiday season," according to the warning dated Tuesday.

Department of Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke said the warning was issued "out of an abundance of caution going into this holiday season."

No changes are being made to the nation's threat level, or for transit systems at this time, he said.

FBI spokesman Richard Kolko confirmed only that his agency and the Homeland Security Department issued a bulletin Tuesday night to state and local authorities, and the information is being reviewed.

An out-of-this-world Thanksgiving dinner

HOUSTON The smoked turkey resembles sliced deli meat but stiffer, the candied yams are bland inside, the green beans taste like they've been microwaved to death and the corn bread stuffing has a broth-heavy, institutional flavor.

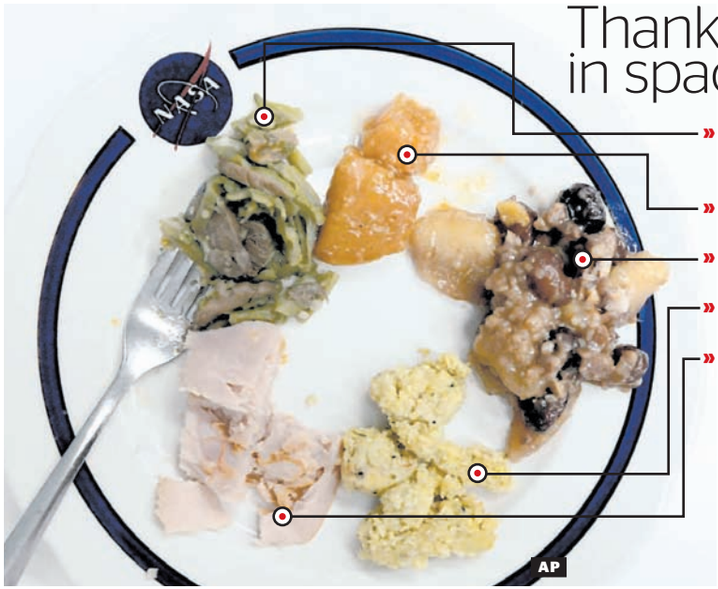
Grandma's home cooking, it's not.

Then again, Grandma's Thanksgiving dinners were never irradiated, freeze-dried, vacuum-packed into plastic pouches and then launched into space to be served 220 miles above Earth.

Astronauts raised plastic cups of iced tea and toasted the Thanksgiving holiday from the international space station Thursday.

"To Thanksgiving. Wishing everyone on Earth, and off Earth, a good Thanksgiving," said Endeavour astronaut Don Pettit, holding a makeshift plastic cup he had devised during his visit to the space station.

The seven Endeavour astronauts and three space station crew members enjoyed their traditional Thanksgiving dinner Thursday. But unlike families on Earth, they were floating—not sitting down—for their feast at the joined space shuttle-international space station complex. AP



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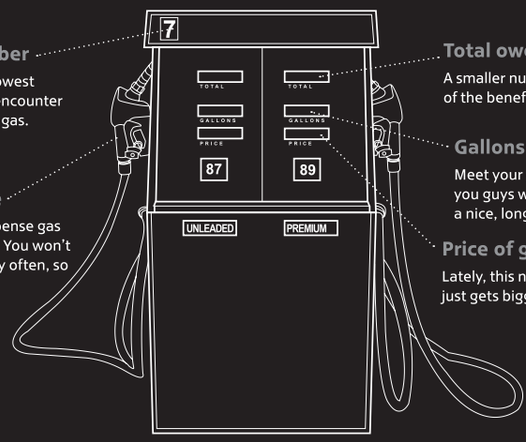
Gas-Pump Reference Guide



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reader letters

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Sounding off on racism and more

Don't teach hate

I believe that racism in America will not end as long as there are people who teach their kids to hate another person just because of skin color ("Confronting racism in three small steps," Kyra Kyles column, Nov. 21). This will go on and on until the world comes to an end. I hope the world will change, but I know from experience that people judge on your race and the things they see on TV and the media.

Most of the people who hate don't know about other people's background. How can you build relationships with other races when no one wants to change? I hope for change, but I don't see it any time soon.

AZELL EDWARDS, 35, WOODLAWN

Share the love

I believe that America has tried to pass laws that would promote tolerance of those that are not of our own persuasion, in the areas of job hiring, real estate and other fields. However, in my opinion, regardless the number of laws that are passed to help in the promotion of tolerance of one another, tolerance does not take the place of love. There is no law or legislation in the world that can make us love one another the way that we should.

That has to come strictly from the heart. We must have a change of heart in order to appreciate each other's differences.

LINDA M. CHATMAN, 54, BERWYN

End the method

As a man who was raised to befriend everybody, I may be writing this from an admittedly naive platform. However, I can't help but feel that racism has lingered not because of hatred, but because people WANT it to remain. What? Let me explain.

If equality is truly desired by all, if everyone simply wants to stand on level ground with their fellow man, we need change from all sides. As a white man, there have been numerous times I have been verbally assaulted by races other than my own. Was it racism? Maybe. Or was it ignorance, thuggery and intimidation? Absolutely. It didn't make me hate everyone from those races, it just makes me dislike all people with that attitude a bit more.

From where I'm standing, racism will end as soon as all means and methods of supporting racism end.

MIKE CINDRIC, 29, LINCOLN PARK

Hyde society

Hyde Park ("Chicago's most famous neighborhood," Nov. 19 cover story) is indeed an eclectic and progressive Chicago haven. It's idyllic for intellectuals, artists, writers, human rights activists, animal lovers, humanitarians, libertarians and vegetarians.

BRIEN COMERFORD, 48, GLENVIEW

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Hate crimes

Reported hate crimes against gays increased by 6 percent in 2007 nationally compared with the previous year, even though the number of hate crimes overall decreased slightly, according to FBI statistics released last month. October also marked the 10-year anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard, a gay student who was beaten and later died. Here's a look at hate crimes statistics in Chicago. L.V.

72
Reported hate crimes in 2007, down 10 percent from 2006

26
Of those incidents were reported as being based on sexual orientation, three fewer than in 2006

12
Of those incidents were, upon investigation, classified as bona fide hate crimes based on sexual orientation, also three fewer than in 2006

5
Arrests were made in connection with the bona fide hate crimes

6%
Of discrimination complaints filed in 2007 with the Chicago Commission on Human Rights involving housing, employment and accommodation claimed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation

SOURCES: FBI, CHICAGO POLICE, CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Spotlight on gay rights

National movement for equality resonates locally

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

Kelly Cassidy and her partner, Alex Silets, professed their love in front of family members and friends and were married in a Jewish ceremony at the Three Arts Club of Chicago in 1995. Theirs was the first gay wedding the two had ever attended.

Eight years later, the Andersonville couple added their names to the Cook County Domestic Partnership Registry on the first day it was offered. And still, they've been waiting to be married—legally.

"We've always said we had the big wedding and we are fully married. And I've always said we're just waiting for the paperwork to get here," said Cassidy, 40, director of programs for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Now the couple is considering going elsewhere to get that paperwork.

For them, getting the rights and responsibilities that come with a marriage license, they say, means not having to jump through extra hoops to protect their three sons in decisions on health care and inheritance, among others.

Silets, 38, a producer of WTTW's documentary, "Out & Proud in Chicago," said she sees a "window of opportunity" and has been trying to convince Cassidy to get married in the states that allowed same-sex couples to do so. Until Election Day, California and Massachusetts were on the list. The same week, California was scratched off the list with the passage of the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban, but the state of Connecticut began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples following a state supreme court ruling.

The national debate over gay marriage ballot initiatives had a ripple effect felt even in Chicago. Even though no such measures faced Illinois voters on Nov. 4, hundreds recently protested the outcome of the Prop. 8 vote at Federal Plaza downtown.

Gay rights has recently garnered much attention throughout the country—hate crimes against gays are up nationally; the movie "Milk," starring Sean Penn as Harvey Milk, the country's first openly gay elected public official, is in theaters; a proposal to develop a high school for gay and lesbian students in Chicago was shelved last week; and a Florida law that prevented gay people from adopting children was overturned this week. How does Illinois compare with the rest of the country in the gay rights arena? Right smack dab in the middle, like its map location, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a national GLBT civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

Illinois is one of 10 states (and the District of Columbia) where same-sex couples can jointly petition to adopt statewide, and one of nine states (and D.C.) that allow second-parent adoption for same-sex couples statewide. The state has a law that addresses hate crimes based on sexual orientation, but not gender identity. It also prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

However, Illinois has a law—not a constitutional amendment—restricting marriage to one man and one woman.

And Illinois is where Cassidy and Silets, the Chicago couple, prefer to marry.

"I don't see [Illinois allowing gay marriage] in the immediate future. I see it eventually," Silets said.

Cassidy shares Silets' view. "Illinois is not happening any time soon by any measure. We could pass civil unions, but I don't know if that would count for me," she said.

A bill allowing for civil unions awaits lawmakers' votes in the Illinois General Assembly. If the civil union bill is passed, Illinois would join Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, D.C. and California in having state laws that provide spousal rights for civil unions and domestic partnerships, the HRC said.

"We continue to make progress," said state Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago), sponsor of the civil unions bill introduced in 2007. "It is against the law to discriminate against people because of their sexual orientation in their job and housing, but people still don't have equal relationship rights."

LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM

From left, Daniel Silets, 3, Alex Silets, Bubba (the dog), Kelly Cassidy, and Ethan Silets, 3, read from a book in their Andersonville home. NOLAN WELLS FOR RED EYE

The state of gay marriage

Some say, "I do," and some say, "I don't"—support gay marriage, that is.

The approval of Proposition 8 in California and other measures in Arizona and Florida was a victory for some.

"Even liberal California voted very clearly; they're not ready to tamper with the institution of marriage and to expand it," said David Smith, executive director of the Illinois Family Institute, a Christian nonprofit organization.

"I'm hoping our lawmakers understand their constituency is not unlike the other American citizens and voters in 30 other states who have voted overwhelmingly as a whole to protect marriage from radical redefinition."

Last week, the California Supreme Court agreed to hear legal challenges to the ban on gay marriage.

Still, the passage of Prop. 8 disheartened gay rights activists and supporters but has mobilized people across the country and in Chicago.

"I hope it's one little bump in the road. Like any civil rights battle it's a long journey, and the turnout [at the Nov. 15 rally to protest Prop. 8 in Chicago] and all around the country shows we're in it for the long haul," said Brooke Skinner, 28, who lives in Edgewater.

A 2005 survey of 600 people commissioned by Equality Illinois, a statewide gay civil rights organization, found the people of Illinois believe gay couples should be protected in hospital visitation, adoption and inheritance rights, health benefits for partners of government employees and filing joint tax returns, said Rick Garcia, Equality Illinois' director of public policy.

While 38 percent supported gay marriage, 49 percent did not. But 53 percent support and 36 percent oppose providing civil unions to same-sex couples.

What is the future of the civil unions bill pending in the state legislature?

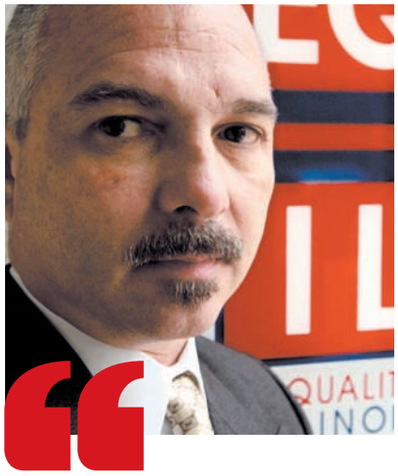
"The concern is it might stall. But on the other hand, we can use this [outcry against the passage of Prop. 8] to increase momentum," said Courtney Reid, program director at the Center on Halsted, the Boystown community center that provides services and support groups to the gay community.

More than 1,500 couples are listed on the Cook County domestic partnership registry, which doesn't provide any legal rights. The 5-year-old registry provides proof of a relationship should employers require it for partners to receive benefits, said Courtney Greve, a spokeswoman for the county clerk's office.

Illinois' civil unions bill "would give the various rights and obligations that married couples have to people who are in civil unions," said state Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago), who sponsored the bill.

"There still seems to be a little bit of resistance about the use of the word marriage. But people understand folks in relationships deserve basic fundamental rights, like hospital visitation, medical decision-making for partners, disposition of partners' remains," he said.

The bill was not called for a vote on the last scheduled day of the session for this year. The general assembly is scheduled to return to Springfield in January. LEONOR VIVANCO



"I don't know if warehousing them away from everybody else is a good idea. Segregation is not the answer."

RICK GARCIA
director of public policy for Equality Illinois

Gay school plan stirs debate

Controversy swirled over the past few months around a plan to develop a high school in Chicago devoted to gay and lesbian students.

The intent of the school, initially called the Social Justice High School Pride Campus, was to provide a safe haven for students targeted because of their sexual orientation.

Ultimately, the idea of the school was tabled last week and didn't make it to the school board for a vote. Project backers said they would revamp the proposal next year after days earlier changing the name of the project to the Social Justice Solidarity High School and broadening the concept of the school to include all disenfranchised students.

Conservatives criticized the idea when it was proposed, saying the establishment of the school would be a misuse of public funds, while gay rights activists were split in their support.

"I'm ecstatic and thrilled that the city recognizes gay kids are our most vulnerable and many of them drop out of school. ... I don't know if warehousing them away from everybody else is a good idea. Segregation is not the answer," said Rick Garcia, director of public policy for Equality Illinois.

Said Andy Thayer, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network: "My first impression of the proposal was, boy, it's great to have one pro-gay school, but we really need systemwide change as well. But one pro-gay school was better than none."

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, a national education organization, released its 2007 National School Climate Survey last month of 6,209 middle and high school LGBT students. In it, 86 percent of respondents said they were harassed at school in the past year, and nearly 61 percent said they felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation. Thirty-two percent said they skipped a day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe. LEONOR VIVANCO, TRIBUNE CONTRIBUTED.

Where Obama stands

President-elect Obama has spoken about inclusion of the gay community and worked on legislation to promote equality, including co-sponsoring a bill in Illinois to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace. Take a look at where Obama said he stood on gay rights during the campaign:

» Opposes constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage and supports civil unions.
» Supports the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw hate crimes.
» Supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to ban workplace discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.
» Supports the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

chicago

Gov. Blagojevich and his wife, Patti, visit the Chicago Christian Industrial League as Thanksgiving dinner is served. ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE

G-Rod: Bush should free George Ryan

Ryan

Chicago Tribune

Gov. Blagojevich, who rode into state office pledging to clean up the corruption of his predecessor, said Thursday that President Bush should commute the federal prison sentence of former Gov. George Ryan to time served as an act of compassion.

Blagojevich, making a Thanksgiving Day appearance at the Chicago Christian Industrial League, contended Ryan had paid "a significant price" for what he termed "mistakes." Citing the frail health of Ryan's wife, Lura Lynn, and the 74-year-old former governor's health concerns, Blagojevich said a commutation by Bush would be a "fine decision."

Despite promises of reforming government that helped him win the governor's mansion in 2002 after Ryan opted not to seek re-election, Blagojevich's administration is the subject of myriad federal investigations of alleged corruption involving state hiring, contracting and fundraising. He has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

Blagojevich becomes the second high-profile Democrat in the state to support efforts to have the outgoing Republican president free the former GOP governor from prison. Earlier this week, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the chamber, said he was considering asking Bush to commute Ryan's sentence.

Ryan has served a little more than a year of his 6½-year sentence on federal fraud, racketeering and related corruption charges after being convicted by a jury in 2006. Earlier this week, an application to have Ryan's sentence commuted to time served was filed with Justice Department officials in Washington, the agency that, through the attorney general, makes clemency recommendations to the president.

Veronica Lewis (right) smiles Wednesday as she recognizes President-elect Obama and his family distributing food at the St. Columbanus Catholic Church food bank. AP

Obama: 'Difficult months ahead'

Chicago Tribune

As he spent Thanksgiving in Chicago with dozens of friends and family at his Kenwood home, President-elect Obama's transition aides released a radio address he has recorded for broadcast on Saturday.

In the weekly Democratic Radio Address, Obama discusses the meaning of Thanksgiving and the challenges the nation faces.

"Times are tough," the president-elect says. "There are difficult months ahead. But we can renew our nation the same way that we have in the many years since Lincoln's first Thanksgiving: by coming together to overcome adversity; by reaching for—and working for—new horizons of opportunity for all Americans."

On Wednesday, Obama and his wife took their daughters to work at a South Side food bank on the day before Thanksgiving, saying they wanted to show the girls the meaning of the holiday, especially when so many people are struggling.

The family handed out wrapped chickens to the needy in the chilly outdoor courtyard. Those seeking food on Wednesday at St. Columbanus also received boxes with potatoes, oranges, fresh bread, peanut butter, canned goods, oatmeal, spaghetti and coffee.

A green White House?

President-elect Obama says he wants to make the White House "green."

In an interview with Barbara Walters that aired Wednesdy, Obama said he plans to sit down with the chief usher for the presidential mansion and do an evaluation of its energy efficiency. He says part of what he wants to do is show the American people that it's not that hard to go green.

Asked whether he'll be tiptoeing around at night, turning off the lights, Obama said he isn't going to be obsessive about it. AP

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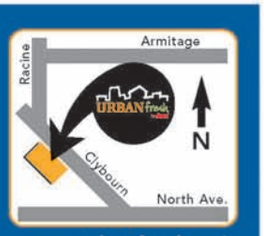

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Shaw

Dolton mayor dies of cancer

Dolton Mayor William Shaw, 71, a former state lawmaker, died Wednesday at his Dolton home after a four-year battle with cancer. Shaw became Dolton's first African-American mayor when he was elected in 1997. He was elected state representative in the 34th District in 1982. After serving five terms, he was elected senator of the 15th District. As a senator, Shaw co-sponsored legislation that made it mandatory that African-American history be taught in Illinois public schools. Shaw was the twin brother of former Cook County Commissioner and Chicago Alderman Robert Shaw.

Girl dies after falling into pond

A young girl died Thursday after she fell into a thinly frozen pond in a Naperville subdivision and remained submerged for about 15 minutes, according to fire and police authorities. Maheen Ahmad, 9, slipped through the ice after she and a cousin attempted to walk across a frozen retention pond. They inched about 10 feet out before the inch-thick ice cracked, said acting Asst. Fire Chief Dushan Budimir.

Rail damage shuts South Shore service

All South Shore train service was suspended for most of Thursday because of extensive rail damage caused by a freight train between Michigan City, Ind., and Ogden Dunes, rail officials said. Passenger service on the line was shut down for most of Thanksgiving Day, according to John Parsons, spokesman for the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Rail repairs were completed early Thursday evening.

High-speed chase nets robbery suspect

A man suspected of being a serial bank robber was arrested after a high-speed chase in south suburban Evergreen Park, the FBI announced Thursday. Phillip Leon, 36, of Chicago had been wanted by the FBI in connection with the armed robberies of at least five banks in Chicago and a sixth in the south suburbs in recent weeks. Leon, whose last known address was in the 8700 block of South Honore Street in Chicago, was arrested late Wednesday afternoon near 87th Street and Troy Avenue after a high-speed chase.

Tutoring facility caters to athletes

A student studies in the new $6 million academic center at the U. of I. ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE FILE

CHAMPAIGN The Irwin Academic Services Center at the University of Illinois is outfitted with computer labs and classrooms; staffed with tutors, counselors and learning specialists; furnished with oversize leather chairs and Oriental rugs—and off-limits to 99 percent of the student body.

To get help with course work in this Tudor-style former fraternity house, which cost $6 million to adapt as a tutoring facility, a student must run track, shoot basketballs, battle the Fighting Illini's gridiron opponents or participate in another sport.

Universities across the nation are offering even more spectacular tutoring centers for student-athletes, which have become a recruiting device for coaches. Louisiana State University's facility cost $15 million; at Texas A&M University, $27 million.

As the price tags rise, critics ask: Is spending this kind of money on a few athletically gifted students appropriate? At the University of Michigan, the student newspaper has pressed the administration to open its $12 million athletic tutoring facility to students of all types—with no success thus far.

"These athletic tutoring palaces perpetuate resentment and stereotyping on campus," said Allen Sack, a University of New Haven professor who played football for the University of Notre Dame and has become a critic of what he sees as the corrosive effect of sports on university life.

"A student who is not an athlete will say: 'I'm working nights to get through school, why don't I get free tutoring?'" Sack said. "That the athletes do perpetuates the image of a dumb jock who couldn't get through school without special help."

The academic centers, usually funded and run by the athletic department, also have been tainted by scandal as one school and then another step over the line between helping athletes with their homework and doing it for them.

Defenders of the centers argue that they prepare student-athletes for life after the football field and basketball court, as only a fraction move on to pro sports. Debby Roberts, a learning specialist at the Irwin Center, said she counsels Illini athletes to use their college years to develop their non-athletic potential.

Might as well jump

Markian Pylyplzak performs with the Hromovytsia Ukranian Dance Ensemble Thursday at the 75th Annual McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade along State Street. MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

Air travelers catch a break

Prescription for a relatively hassle-free day-before-Thanksgiving at Chicago's airports: Sunny weather. Fewer travelers. And a security lane just for families.

About 300,000 fewer fliers were expected at O'Hare and Midway Airports this holiday week compared with last year. Between last Friday and Monday, 2.5 million travelers were projected to pass through the two airports.

On Wednesday, typically a big day for people hurrying to reach out-of-town families before the big meal, O'Hare was expecting 205,000 travelers. But Karen Pride, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Aviation, described the volume as "a normal early-morning crowd."

Brad Burke remembers a year ago and was grateful.

"Better than that two hours I had to wait in line last year," he said.

Midway had its busiest day of the week so far on Tuesday, when 64,000 travelers passed through the airport, Pride said. O'Hare is expecting its busiest day to be Sunday, with an estimated 223,000 travelers.

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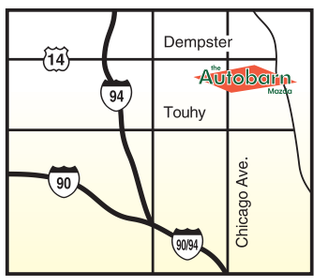

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Run, turkey, run

1 Dozens of holiday revelers kick off Thanksgiving on Thursday with a fundraising dip in Ashland Pond in Jewett City, Conn. The sixth annual Turkey Dip raises money for the Griswold Public Schools athletic programs. AP

Ready? Set? Go shopping!

The nation's retailers are set to usher in the holiday shopping season Friday with pre-dawn openings, deep discounts and a downright dismal economic outlook that threatens to keep shoppers' credit cards securely in their wallets.

Stores are extending their hours—some opening at midnight—and preparing for a surge of shoppers searching for discounts that promise to be even deeper than a year ago. But the question remains whether anyone will be spending much money as a recession nears, credit markets remain frozen, layoffs loom and consumer spending shrinks.

"We think the numbers are going to be pretty bad across the board," Morningstar analyst Brady Lemos said.

That's not stopping sales associates at Target from handing out maps showing just where to find hot items, such as the 26-inch flat-screen HDTV by Westinghouse that's available for $299. At Wal-Mart, a Magnavox Blu-ray player is on sale for $128.

At some Best Buy sites, coffee and doughnuts will be available for customers waiting for doors to open at 5 a.m. Inside, they'll find Toshiba laptops starting at $379.99 and a Garmin GPS system for $189.99.

DID YOU KNOW?

Black Friday, named because it was often the sales-packed day when retailers would become profitable for the year, was the biggest sales generator of the season last year, accounting for about 10 percent of overall holiday sales.

Gift certificates for birth control?

2 **INDIANAPOLIS** At the Planned Parenthood of Indiana, 'tis the season of giving health care and contraception. But it's a sentiment that opponents of abortion and artificial birth control say denigrates the holiday season.

The network of 35 clinics across the state announced it is offering holiday vouchers for basic health care services "or the recipient's choice of birth control method."

The organization decided to offer the vouchers because so many people are uninsured or are putting off health care because of prohibitive costs, said Betty Cockrum, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Indiana. Nearly 800,000 Indiana residents don't have health insurance, she said.

QUOTABLE

"Frankly, I'm not going to miss the limelight all that much."

— **President Bush**, about how he'll feel when he leaves the White House. Bush's conversation with sister Doro Bush Koch aired Thursday on NPR's "Morning Edition." He admitted he'll miss perks like White House cooking and flying on Air Force One.

Charge in anchorwoman case

3 Arkansas police arrested Curtis Lavelle Vance, 28, at a home in Little Rock on Wednesday night. Vance has been charged with capital murder in the beating death of Little Rock TV anchor Anne Pressly.

Barbara Bush update

4 A Houston hospital spokeswoman says former First Lady Barbara Bush, 83, was in good condition Thursday after undergoing surgery for a perforated ulcer. The former first lady was hospitalized Tuesday after experiencing abdominal pain.

Chrysler road trip?

5 Chrysler CEO Robert Nardelli will not fly on a corporate jet when he returns to Washington next week for congressional hearings on government loans for the auto industry. A spokeswoman says the options include driving or commercial flights.

$36M award in Wal-Mart death

6 The family of an Arizona Wal-Mart employee shot to death by a mental patient has been awarded $36 million by a jury. The jury found the company 90 percent at fault in Patrick Graham's death and ordered it to split the payment with its Arizona subsidiary.

7 killed in crash

7 An SUV plunged off an overpass in northern Colorado and hit a concrete embankment in a fiery crash early Thursday morning, killing all seven people inside it, including two young children, authorities said.

Airport protest

8 Protesters occupying Bangkok's two airports braced for a raid Thursday night after Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat declared a limited state of emergency authorizing police to take back the terminals. Meanwhile, thousands of tourists were left stranded.

THE DIGIT

115 Age at which Edna Parker, who became the world's oldest person more than a year ago, died Wednesday at a Shelbyville, Ind., nursing home. Parker was 115 years, 220 days old, according to a Guinness World Records official.

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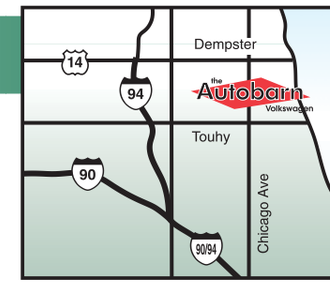

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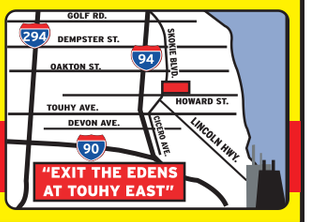

sports

Urlacher seeks legal action to see son

Chicago Tribune

Brian Urlacher says the mother of his 3-year-old son has stooped to a low in their custody battle.

The Bears linebacker said Wednesday he was incensed that Tyna Robertson had been quoted in a published report as saying Urlacher had painted his son Kennedy's toenails blue and made the boy wear a pink Cinderella pull-up. Robertson talked to the Joliet Herald-News, part of the Sun-Times News Group, after a Tuesday date in Will County Court.

"I don't [care] what she says about me or what anyone else says about me, but she's putting my son in the paper again," Urlacher said. "He did get his nails painted. Yes. [My daughters] painted his nails. So what? His sisters were painting their nails, so he was like, 'I want to paint my nails.' He's 3 years old. Who cares?

"And, yes, he did have a pull-up on of his [3-year-old sister's]. But she wears his pull-ups also. His were out, so he put on one of hers. ... So what? It's a pull-up."

Urlacher's attorney, Anita Ventrelli, filed an emergency motion on his behalf to stop Robertson from keeping Kennedy away from his father, leading to Robertson's appearance Tuesday. Efforts to reach attorney Alice Wilson, who represents Robertson, were unsuccessful.

A court ruling in January allowed Urlacher to see his son from Monday afternoon until Tuesday evening. Urlacher said he pays a driver chosen by Robertson to bring his son back and forth from Robertson's home. She used to live in Bolingbrook but since has moved to Burr Ridge.

"I took her to court because I'm tired of missing [visits]," Urlacher said. "I've missed 12 days since Aug. 28. And I only get him one night a week. Go figure. So I had to take her back [to court] so I could enforce the order that was in place in January."

Rushing roulette

Bears face Vikings and Peterson with first place on the line

MCT

Lovie Smith doesn't feel picked on.

The Bears coach has watched Adrian Peterson run for 423 yards and seven touchdowns in three meetings between the Bears and the Vikings.

BEARS AT MINNESOTA
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"But we're not by ourselves—Adrian Peterson has had success against just about everybody he plays," Smith said. "Best player in the league, you know."

The teams will play Sunday night with first place in the NFC North at stake, and limiting Peterson is high on the Bears' priority list.

"The guy poses a problem for every team he plays, especially for us," said Lance Briggs, who had two interceptions in the Bears' 27-3 victory at St. Louis on Sunday. "You could definitely say he has our number.

"His speed is what sets him apart. It can kind of throw off your tackling angles. You can't make a regular form tackle. By the time you get up to his body, he's 3 yards away from you.

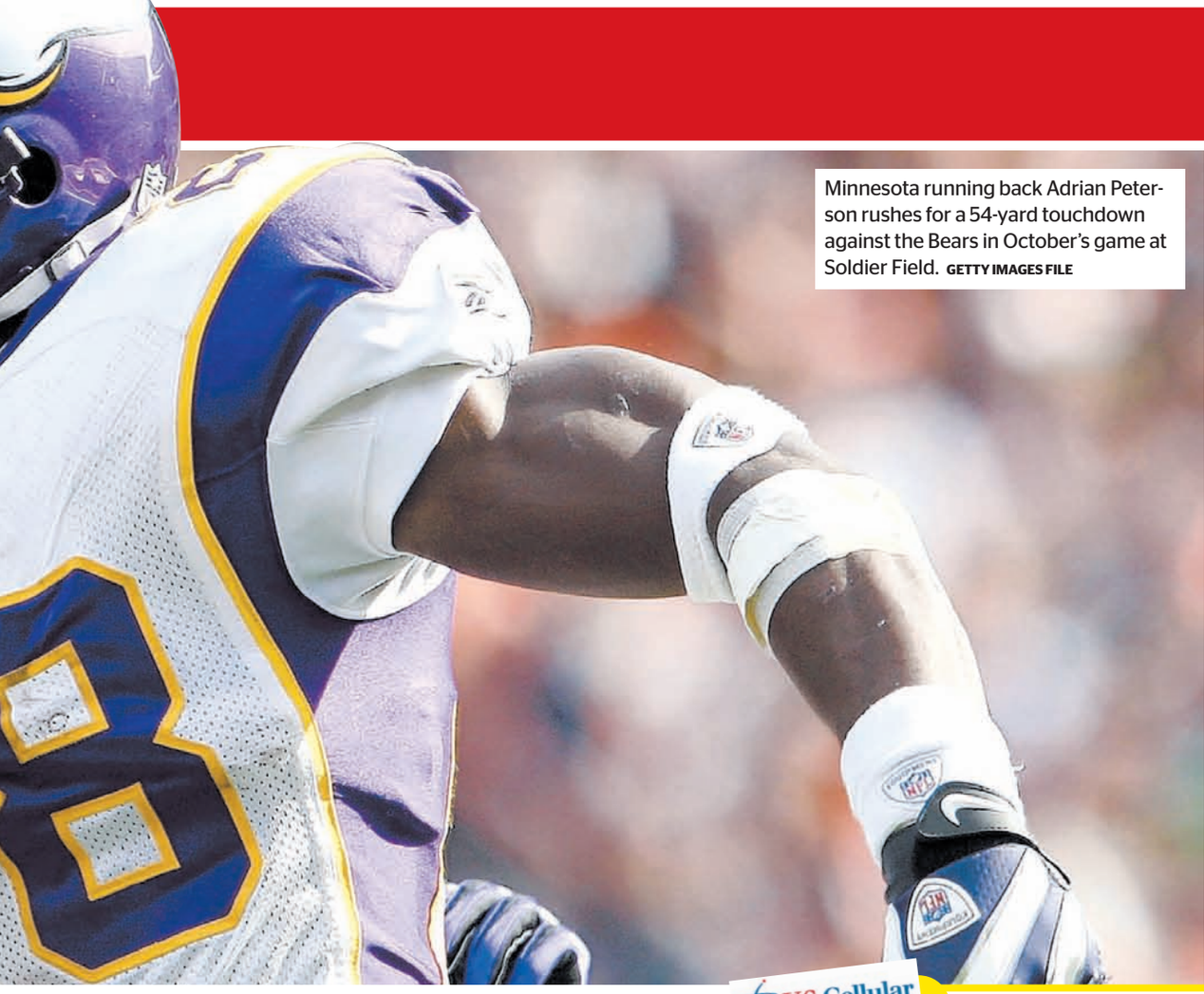
"You put that along with his strength and his running ability, he's definitely a step above."

Peterson had a 224-yard, three-touchdown game at Soldier Field last season before rushing for 78 yards and two TDs at the Metrodome in December. He had 121 yards and two scores in a 48-41 loss at Soldier Field on Oct. 19.

The Bears have the NFL's fifth-best run defense, but gave up 200 rushing yards in a 37-3 loss in Green Bay two weeks ago.

"I figured we'd get to the Packers some kind of way," Smith said. "Our defense has played great run defense all year. We had a game where we didn't. We expect to play good run defense the rest of the way."

In the first meeting this season, the Vikings had 439 net yards, with touchdown drives of 67, 70, 68, 64 and 75 yards. But the Bears intercepted Gus Frerotte four times and scored after two special



Minnesota running back Adrian Peterson rushes for a 54-yard touchdown against the Bears in October's game at Soldier Field. GETTY IMAGES FILE

teams miscues in the highest-scoring game of the team's 95 meetings.

Frerotte threw for 296 yards against a team missing starting defensive backs Charles Tillman, Nathan Vasher and Danieal Manning. Vasher (broken hand) was reinjured against the Rams and will miss Sunday's game, and overall the Bears pass defense (30th in the league) has not improved much.

Offensively, the Bears counted on Devin Hester to make a transition to No. 1 receiver after Bernard Berrian left to sign as a free agent with the Vikings. Hester battled a rib injury early and has 31 catches for 375 yards.

The bigger issue, though, is that after returning 12 kicks (seven punts, four kickoffs and a missed field goal) for touchdowns during his first two seasons, Hester has no return touchdowns and wasn't back for kickoffs against the Rams. Smith, who didn't want Hester overused on returns, unveiled the Wildcat formation twice against the Rams, and Hester ran for 12 yards on one of the direct-snap plays.

"You're trying to get the ball into your playmaker's hands," Smith said. "He's at full strength. Devin took a step."

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The Whiz Quiz

Think you know your stuff? Test your sports smarts against RedEye's prognosticating pooch Whizzer. How many interceptions has Kyle Orton thrown this season? Text "**quiz**" and the number of your answer to **47383**. I'll text ya back to tell you if you got the answer right or wrong.

1. 0 **2.** 2 **3.** 4 **4.** 8 **5.** 16

sacked again

BAG BOY
redeyesports@tribune.com

Bears at Vikings: No thanks!

The holidays are upon us, so naturally it's a time to reflect on all we've been given and all that we hope to achieve in the years ahead.

Oh, please. First off, the Bears are at Minnesota on Sunday night. That means I have to sit through John Madden. That would be fine, if this were 1985, the Bears were awesome and Madden was in his prime.

Instead, I'll get this at least 25 times: "That's what it's all about right there." Or at least 20 times:

"That right there ... that's why you love football."

Forget it. Here's my rather thoughtful, deep analysis, as always, free of charge.

Two extremely average football teams that have beaten exactly no one this year. We need Kyle Orton to be fully healed for this one. Our defense played a good game against the Rams, but that doesn't really count because it's against the Rams.

We have to play very well to beat this team, more so because of ... I hate to say it ... that dome.

It haunts me, that dump. Both as a Sox fan and a Bears fan. There's something so fake about it, and I've woken up many nights in a cold sweat thinking of either Daunte Culpepper to Randy Moss to beat the Bears or a bloop single to beat the Sox.

I know the Twins got a new stadium, but everyone in Chicago should float a couple of bucks to Minnesota to get an outdoor stadium built.

Back to the players. I say Devin Hester runs the Wildcat ... at least 15 times. That's out of necessity. Remember, we have no receivers. Memo to Jerry Angelo: They're noted as "WR" on draft charts—go get us a couple, please.

In other news, I see Lou Piniella has at long last settled into his role as Cubs manager. I know this because he's willing to accept mediocrity. He told somebody that he thought the Cubs were set with starting pitching and therefore didn't really need Jake Peavy. Wow. The Cubs don't need a bona fide No. 1 starter? They must be world champs or something. Congratulations, Lou. Welcome to Chicago.

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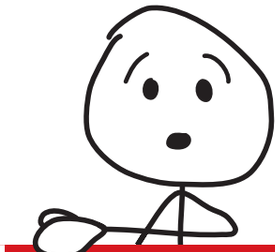
No thanks

Be thankful you didn't have to watch these five eat their holiday meal. Trust us, it wasn't pretty.



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1 What will a national TV audience learn about the Bears on Sunday at Minnesota?	The neckbeard never went out of style, it just went into hiding.	This season's games are merely symbolic, not legally binding.	How handsome Rex Grossman looks with a baseball cap and a clipboard.	We can maul outdoors *and* indoors.	That they're in hibernation. Everyone already knows that, silly.
2 How would you solve Brian Urlacher's problems with the mother of his son?	Money. Lots of glorious money.	The three M's: mediation, meditation and manicures.	Relocate. Change your name. Disappear.	Give me a few minutes with them and you'll never hear about it again.	Easy. Tic-Tac-Toe.
3 Thanksgiving without the Detroit Lions playing would be like ...	... Five on Five without Leo. Unusual but oh so much better.	... Flag Day without a pro bowling tournament in Oklahoma City.	... eating an apple without a razor blade in it.	... a highly touted Bulls rookie not being compared to Michael. Never happen.	... a circus without clowns. I'm getting teary-eyed just thinking about it.
4 How should the Pistons punish Allen Iverson for missing practice on Thanksgiving?	At the very least, he should share his pumpkin pie with the team.	Force him to watch 100 bad impressions of his infamous "Practice?!?" rant.	Make him spend next Thanksgiving with Larry Brown.	He plays wearing Rip Hamilton's mask from now on. Talk about humiliating.	Take his crayons away. Your move, Mr. Iverson.
5 What should the preseason NIT champ get?	My never-ending respect. Actually, my respect lasts about a week, so congrats.	A ceremonial visit to the White House. Wait, I mean White Castle.	There's a preseason NIT tournament?!	An invisible trophy.	Candy. No, ice cream. No, cotton candy. I got it. Cotton candy-flavored ice cream.

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watch dog

WHIZZER
redeyesports@tribune.com

It says something about us as Americans that our holiday traditions revolve around televised sporting events and eating.

Before TV, holiday traditions were just about grand meals and grand times. Then we added TV to the equation. Now it wouldn't be Thanksgiving without the NFL's annual games in Detroit and Dallas or meaningless college basketball tourneys. I guess this is evolution?

Here now, my TV picks.

NHL

Blackhawks at Anaheim

3 P.M. WGN
Consider this Thanksgiving dessert for your eyes.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Fresno St. at Boise St.

5 P.M. ESPN2
Boise St. is always fun to watch. It's a workout for me just to keep up.

PRESEASON NIT CHAMPIONSHIP

Oklahoma at Purdue

2:30 P.M. ESPN2
Purdue is No. 10; Oklahoma is No. 11. I am not impressed.

Illinois head coach Bruce Weber talks with center Mike Tisdale during a game against Vanderbilt last week.
AP

Illini in giving mood

NEXT GAME
vs. Kent State
5 p.m. Friday, Fox College Sports Atlantic

Bruce Weber is hearing about it in the community and seeing the results on the scoreboard. Win or lose, this Illinois basketball team appears to have discovered the gift of sharing.

"We've been good at sharing the basketball, and I hope it continues," the Illini coach said.

"People are enjoying watching it. They like how these guys are playing together. They're giving the image of a group that likes playing together, and we have to keep that going."

The Illini will be challenged to keep it up this weekend at the South Padre Island Invitational, where they play Friday and Saturday.

They meet Mid-American Conference favorite Kent State at 5 p.m. Friday.

The Illini are 4-0, including a win at Vanderbilt. But this team will not resemble the one of the last two years, built around low-post center Shaun Pruitt. This team is based on movement, a style more akin to the Dee Brown years.

Evidence of that comes from Mike Davis, the surprise scoring leader at 14.3 points per game.

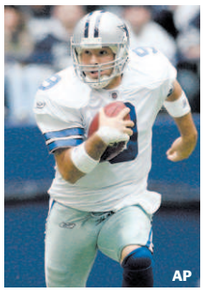
"Teammates are finding me," the sophomore forward said. "It's been pretty easy out there."

The Illini are averaging 19.8 assists per game and recording assists on 74.5 percent of their baskets, up from last season's 59.4 percent.

"It starts in practice," Davis said. "We're playing a lot of three-on-three and four-on-four, so everybody can get great movement, and that carries over into games. We're doing a great job right now."

Weber is even happy with how his team is playing defense.

"We have to continue playing good defense," Weber said. "We're playing solid defense, and it's been our foundation. That's got to continue."



AP

NFL

Cowboys roll

Tony Romo (left) might not want to take the splint off his passing hand the way he and the Dallas Cowboys are playing. Romo crisply guided Dallas to touchdowns on its first three drives and points on the first four, then turned the early surge into a 34-9 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Thursday.

Titans dominate Lions

Chris Johnson ran for two touchdowns in the first quarter, LenDale White scored twice in the second and the Tennessee Titans coasted to a 47-10 win over Detroit.

McNabb storms back

Donovan McNabb threw four TD passes in the Eagles' 48-20 rout of the Cardinals.

Taking a ride on 'Mayne Street'

If you're a fan of shows such as "The Office" (British and American versions), the Ricky Gervais sitcom "Extras" of a couple of years ago or Larry David's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," then you'll appreciate Kenny Mayne's new project called "Mayne Street."

It's an ESPN digital production, and it's totally a creation of Mayne's skewed, cynical and very funny mind.

The loose plot is that the episodes, which debut each Tuesday and Friday on **espn.com**, are a fictional and digital diary of a guy (Mayne) working for a network (gee, wonder which one?).

The episodes are three to five minutes long.

On the first installment, Mayne is anchoring a "SportsCenter" segment, and he has trouble coming up with an exit line. "Even for those of you who use this only for background during sex, thanks for watching SportsCenter," Mayne says. Scott Van Pelt is playing Mayne's co-host. Van Pelt's look of dismay is priceless.

Mayne said he had proposed the idea originally to run on TV. "It got put on a back burner," Mayne said. "When my contract came back up, I proposed it again. We decided to try it online only first."

The first couple of episodes have drawn an average of 2.5 million hits, and Mayne said future episodes will feature Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen and celebrity chef and Season 7 "Dancing With the Stars" participant Bobby Flay. Mayne was on "Dancing" in Season 2.

HIT AND RUN

Iverson
GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Iverson skips practice

Allen Iverson apparently chose family and food over practice—and he'll be fined for it. Iverson was the only player who didn't show up when the Detroit Pistons practiced on Thanksgiving. Coach Michael Curry confirmed Iverson will be fined, will not start Friday against the Milwaukee Bucks and might not play.

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metromix

"The Santaland Diaries"

weekend best bets

By Beth Geraci
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

Elf-made plan

Make a date with a Macy's elf, Black Friday 'mall'-ternatives and more

PICK OF THE WEEK

Ho-ho-ha-ha-ha

Think life in Santa's workshop is all fun and games? For humorist David Sedaris, the scene is more surly than saccharine. Get the full story as local actor Mitchell Fain bring Sedaris' comic tale to life in Theater Wit's annual production of "**The Santaland Diaries**," based on Sedaris' essay about working as a Macy's elf and his resultant struggles to maintain dignity in the face of training, customers and unwieldy Santas. 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. $22-$24. Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. 773-327-5252.

BEST OF THE REST

Back in black

Good things come to those who wait, so skip Black Friday crowds at the mall and get your shopping done on **Black Sunday** instead. Your reward for waiting: 10 percent discounts on ladies' apparel and accessories at Akira in Wicker Park. Complimentary wine, beer and cocktails keep your spirits high along with DJ Rock Tee. After you shop, show your receipt at nearby sports lounge Aberdeen (1856 W. North Ave.) for a free appetizer. Partial sale proceeds at Akira benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Chicago. 7 p.m. Sunday. Free. Akira Women, 1837 W. North Ave. 773-489-0818.

Buck up

Are your loved ones more hip than haute? Shop indie wares at the **Bucktown Bazaar**, which teems with handmade gifts from nearly 60 emerging and established artisans, including silkscreener Hiroshi Ariyama, jewelry maker Melissa Banks, illustrator Cindy Tomczyk and others featured in the annual Bucktown Arts Fest. Don't miss a free ornament-making workshop (1:30 p.m. Sunday), food from Vella Cafe and a silent auction of artworks to benefit Holstein Park. 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Free. Holstein Park Fieldhouse, 2200 N. Oakley Ave. 773-263-5882.

Go green

Think recycling Thanksgiving leftovers is easy? Try your hand at more crafty endeavors at **Green Friday**. Environmental art workshops teach you how to refashion recyclables such as newspaper and sweaters into practical—and giftable—items like wrapping paper (noon), mittens (4 p.m.) and jewelry (6 p.m.). Includes all materials, plus snacks and beverages. 11 a.m. Friday. Free. Greenheart, 746 N. LaSalle Drive. 312-264-1625.

Feliz Navideno

Browse handmade jewelry, pottery, ornaments, toys, glassware and more from native Mexican artisans at **Mercado Navideno**. Highlights include ceramics from Puebla, wood carvings from Oaxaca, textiles from Chiapas and jewelry from Taxco. 10 a.m. Friday through Sunday. Free. National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St. 312-738-1503.

Cold bite

Ever wonder what would happen if Frosty the Snowman weren't such a jolly, happy soul? Find out in the new comedy "**Frostbite**." Billed as a cross between "Frankestein" and "Frosty," the collection of original holiday stories portrays a misunderstood snowman, two kids who go on a trip to see Santa, and the dark roots of some seasonal customs, such as eating fruitcake—blech!—and caroling. 10 p.m. Saturday. Through Dec. 27. $15. The Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway St. 773-561-4665.

Handlebar the cold

Bundle up, cyclists, for the **Portage Park Winter Bike Tour**. The 10-mile guided architectural ride visits 12 sites in a neighborhood known for brick bungalows, Prairie-style buildings and churches, including the Portage Park field house, the Karl Stecher House and Our Lady of Victory church. Need wheels? Bring some form of collateral (a driver's license, a few bucks) and borrow a bike for free. Helmets recommended. 1 p.m. Saturday. Free. Portage Park main entrance, 5600 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-481-0244 ext. 1.

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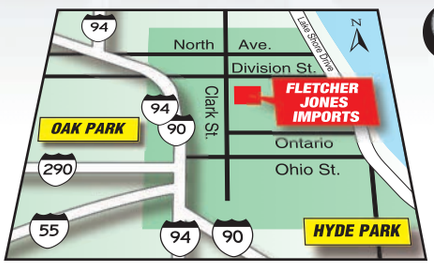

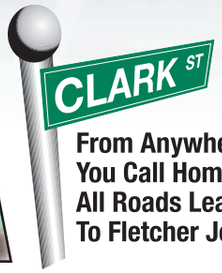

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BRIDGET MCNEILL'S
$2 off nachos, $3 Corona bottles, $3 Pacifico Clara bottles, $5 bombs; 420 W. Belmont Ave. 773-248-6654.

THE CENTRAL
$5 martinis, $5 Bacardi bombs, $5 appetizers; 3466 N. Clark St. 773-880-2222.

CLEOS
$5.99 fish and chips; 1935 W. Chicago Ave. 312-243-5600.

CLUB ROYALE
6 p.m.: Cocktails and Connections. DJs Markfullaflava and I.N.C. spin. Cover varies; 205 N. Peoria St. 312-666-9400.

DARKROOM
9 p.m.: Chu Chu Chu Super Dance Party. A Japanese pop-themed dance party features sets by DJ Jappie Geoff. Dress in cosplay attire for free admission. $5 after 11 p.m.; 2210 W. Chicago Ave. 773-276-1411.

THE FULL SHILLING PUBLIC HOUSE
$3.50 Blue Moon and Sam Adams Seasonal drafts, $4 energy cocktails, $7.99 all-you-can-eat fish and chips, karaoke 9 p.m.; 3724 N. Clark St. 773-248-3330.

FUNKY BUDDHA LOUNGE
9 p.m.: The VIP Party. Sip champagne, nibble appetizers and groove to DJ Word's electro, R&B, rock and old-school beats in the club's private lounge. $10. Free until 11 p.m. with R.S.V.P.; 728 W. Grand Ave. 312-804-5144.

THE GLOBE PUB
$3 well drinks, $4 Tetley's drafts, $7-$9.50 fish and chips, DJ Mike Z spins '80s. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; 1934 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-871-3757.

GOODBAR
$5 martinis and bombs; 2512 N. Halsted St. 773-296-9700.

Friday freebies

Celtic Crown
FILE FOR METROMIX

CELTIC CROWN
Free wings with beverage purchase (3-6 p.m.), bingo (5-9 p.m.), $3.50 Blue Moon drafts and Heineken bottles, $4 energy cocktails, $7.99 battered fish and chips; 4301 N. Western Ave. 773-588-1110.

MORETTI'S RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA
Free wings with beverage purchase (4-8 p.m.), $7.99 all-you-can-eat fish fry (until 3 p.m.), $2.75 Coors Light drafts, $12-$18 table taps of beer; 1645 W. Jackson Blvd. 312-850-0208.

SEDGWICK'S BAR & GRILL
Free food buffet (11 p.m.), $5 Long Island iced teas, $5 specialty martinis, half-price appetizers (4-7 p.m.), DJ spins 9:30 p.m.; 1935 N. Sedgwick St. 312-337-7900.

HAMBURGER MARY'S
$4.50 Fat Tire pints, $5 Mary's Punch cocktails; 5400 N. Clark St. 773-784-6969.

HIDEOUT
$2 PBR and Old Style cans, $2.50 Berghoff bottles; 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

JUNIOR'S SPORTS LOUNGE
$1 domestic bottles; 724 W. Maxwell St. 312-421-2277.

LA TABERNA TAPATIA
$5 mojitos; 3358 N. Ashland Ave. 773-248-5475.

LEG ROOM
$4 Stoli drinks, $5 Snow Queen vodka drinks, $6 Jager bombs, $50 discount on champagne and liquor bottles, DJ Mach 1 spins. $5-$10; 7 W. Division St. 312-337-2583.

MAXBAR
Frequency Fridays. DJ Smokey spins; 2247 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5884.

MERKLE'S BAR & GRILL
$3 Jameson shots, $4 Stoli cocktails, $4.50 Jameson drinks, $5 bombs, DJ Phys Edison spins; 3516 N. Clark St. 773-244-1025.

THE ORBIT ROOM
$4 Ska True Blonde bottles, $9 fish and chips dinners; 2959 N. California Ave. 773-588-8540.

PATSY'S PLACE
Half-price bottles of wine, $3 select drafts, $5 fish fry; 2825 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-248-2825.

POAG MAHONE'S
$3 Miller Lite pints, $3.25 gin and tonics; 333 S. Wells St. 312-566-9100.

RELAX LOUNGE
Half-price food until 9 p.m.; 1450 W. Chicago Ave. 312-666-6006.

RISQUE CAFE
$6 ribs, $1 Hamm's cans, live rock; 3419 N. Clark St. 773-525-7711.

THE SPOT
$5 margaritas; 4437 N. Broadway. 773-728-8934.

STATE RESTAURANT & CAFE
$2.95 appetizers (4-6 p.m.), half-price bottles of wine; 935 W. Webster Ave. 773-975-8030.

STONE LOTUS
10 p.m.: Buyer's Remorse. A Black Friday benefit bash includes an Absolut hosted bar (10 p.m.-midnight), $5 Absolut cocktails and raffle prizes. $20. R.S.V.P. recommended: **faith@stonelotuslounge.com**; 873 N. Orleans St. 312-440-9680.

SULLY'S HOUSE TAP ROOM AND GRILL
Half-price appetizers; 1501 N. Dayton St. 312-929-2779.

UNCLE FATTY'S RUM RESORT
$1 Bud Light drafts, $4 Red Stripe, Land Shark, Modelo and Pacifico bottles, $5 Kilo Kai cocktails, $15 mini-pitchers; 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661.

THE UNION TAVERN
$15 food and drink package 7-10 p.m.; 2858 N. Halsted St. 773-755-9870.

VILLAINS BAR & GRILL
$3 Jameson shots, $4 microbrew bottles, DJs spin 10 p.m.; 649 S. Clark St. 312-356-9992.

Metromix's top shows

Boris

YEA BIG + KID STATIC
Local hip-hop that's both fun and smart. With Psalm One, Royce.
10 p.m. Fri. $7. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

AL GREEN
Still going strong, still so smooth.
8 p.m. Fri. $55-$85. The Venue, 777 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, Ind. 312-559-1212.

BORIS
Our ears still are ringing from seeing these Japanese rockers at Pitchfork. With Clouds, Poison Arrows.
10 p.m. Sat. $15. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

THE HANDCUFFS
Read our interview with Chicago pop-rockers at ***metromix.com****. Time Bomb Symphony headlines, The Elms, Kevin Junior open.*
10 p.m. Sat. $6-$8. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

GROOVATRON
Got the energy to dance off those Turkey Day pounds? With Lying Delilah.
8 p.m. Fri. $10. The Kinetic Playground, 1113 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-769-5483.

Friday

ANDRIUS MAMONTOVAS
8 p.m. $45-$55. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 312-559-1212.

ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS, JOEL PATERSON
5 p.m. $15; 8 p.m. $16-$20. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

BABY ALRIGHT, WHITE MYSTERY, STRANGE WAVES, MANNEQUIN MEN DJS
10 p.m. $8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

BLACKBOX, HOLDING MERCURY, BOHO PAISLEY, TONIGHT THE PROM
8 p.m. $6-$9. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

BOOGIE SHOES, DJ GREG CORNERS, DJ PIERRE KONIKOV
9 p.m. $8. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

BRAD COLE, JEFF LIBMAN
9 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

COBRA SKULLS, BEATNIK TERMITES, RULE 22, THE HOLLYWOOD NIGHTMARES, THE KOBANES
6 p.m. $7-$10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

DONALD HARRISON WITH THE WILLIE PICKENS TRIO
8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

FREDDY JONES BAND
9 p.m. $20-$23. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

THE HUE, LAND OF ATLANTIS, CASTING SPELLS, EDGERR, SATURDAY JUNE
8:15 p.m. $10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

KEVIN COVAL, KINKY NOTTI, RE. DE LA PARKA, SPQ-HER
10 p.m. $10. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. **housecallent.com**

MATANA ROBERTS' CHICAGO PROJECT
9:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

MICHAEL MCDERMOTT, DAVID MOORE
9:30 p.m. $12. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. **housecallent.com**

MINDSIGHT, INN CINEMA, SUDDEN DARK
10 p.m. $6-$8. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

MURLEY SHERTZ, AARON WILLIAMS BAND, BREAKERS BROKEN, TIM STOPULUS TRIO
9 p.m. $7. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

NOMO, CAINS AND ABELS
10:30 p.m. $12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

POI DOG PONDERING, DJ MARTY LENNARTZ.
9 p.m. $25. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

PROB CAUSE AND THE DYSFUNKTIONAL HIPNOTIK, LONGSHOT, BEST DAY EVER, DJ GRIMMACE
8:30 p.m. $8-$10. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

RABBLE RABBLE, HOWLIES, BAD FLIRT, LEMMY CAUTION
9 p.m. $7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. **mpshows.com**

THE TRASHINGTONS, THE F* KNIGHTS**
10 p.m. $5 donation. Cal's Liquors, 400 S. Wells St. 312-922-6392.

ZEP 2
10 p.m. $12. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

Saturday

AIDS WOLF, MAYOR DALEY
9 p.m. $10. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

THE AWAKENING II: FUNKER VOGT, LADY PARASYTE, PYROTECHNIQ, DJ NOIR, DJ MAMA C, DJ MANNCHILD, THE NOIR DOLLS
8 p.m. $22-$50. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

BACKYARD TIRE FIRE
11 p.m. Free. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

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» page 24

CHEVERE
8 p.m. $18-$20. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

CORNMEAL
8 p.m. $16-$18. Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. 312-559-1212.

DONALD HARRISON WITH THE WILLIE PICKENS TRIO
8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

FACING WINTER, THE FREEWHEELS, SISTER SWITCHBLADE, DEXTER, WAITING FOR EUGENE
8:30 p.m. $10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

HOT TUNA
7 and 10 p.m. $34-$38. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

HULA HULA DREAMGIRL, HAWKBIT, DIRECT HIT, GIANT LAKES
9 p.m. $7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. **mpshows.com**

THE INNOCENT, SHELBY POLLARD, RAMAN SACHDEV
9 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

KENNY LATTIMORE AND CHANTE MOORE, GORDON CHAMBERS
7 p.m. $30-$65. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 312-559-1212.

LAS GUITARRAS DE ESPANA
9:30 p.m. $15 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

NADA SURF, DELTA SPIRIT, THE JEALOUS GIRLFRIENDS
9 p.m. $20. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

OCCIDENTAL BROTHERS DANCE BAND INTERNATIONAL
10:30 p.m. $10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

THE SMITHEREENS
8 p.m. $40. Beverly Arts Center of Chicago, 2407 W. 111th St. 773-445-3838.

STATE AND MADISON, THE FRANTIC,

THE NOISE FM, URBANITES
6 p.m. $8-$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. **housecallent.com**

TOASTERS, THE PIETASTERS, DEALS GONE BAD, FLATFOOT 56, LORD MIKE'S DIRTY CALYPSONIANS, MALAFACHA, THE GREEN ROOM ROCKERS
5 p.m. $20. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

THE VERVE PIPE
9 p.m. $20. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-559-1212.

WELCOME TO ASHLEY, V SPARKS, PHIL ANGOTTI
9:30 p.m. $7. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. **housecallent.com**

Sunday

THE BILTMORES, THE STUBBORN, MACGUFFIN
8 p.m. $8. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. **housecallent.com**

THE CHICAGO ENSEMBLE
11 a.m. $10. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-889-4206.

CRYSTAL BOWERSOX, MARK BRINK
7 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

JONATHA BROOKE
7 p.m. $18-$22. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

KINETIC STEREOKIDS, DEASTRO
9:30 p.m. $3. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

LEIGH EVIN MCCULLOUGH, FRANK TRIBES, KURT GUNN
8:30 p.m. $7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

OHGR, CHRIS CONNELLY
9 p.m. $20. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

STEPHEN RAMSDELL
8 p.m. $10 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

YOU ARE THE SOUND, ANIMAL CITY, SECTION 4
6 p.m. $8-$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. **housecallent.com**

ON-SALE TICKETS

On sale 10 a.m. Friday

Fall Out Boy, Tuesday, Dec. 2 ($10, all ages) at Chicago Theatre.

Chrisette Michele, Friday, Dec. 26 ($28-$30, 17+) at House of Blues.

Tarja, Monday, May 4 ($24.50-$27, 17+) at House of Blues.

On sale noon Friday

Mannequin Men, The Living Blue, Friday, Jan. 2 ($10, 21+) at Schubas.

The Nadas, Mike Himbaugh, Wednesday, Feb. 4 ($15, 21+) at Schubas.

The Virgins, Thursday, Jan. 29 ($10-$12, 18+) at Schubas.

On sale 10 a.m. Saturday

Small Town Murder, Psyopus, Oceano, Saturday, Jan. 17 ($10, all ages) at Beat Kitchen.

On sale 11 a.m. Saturday

Owl City, Saturday, Feb. 14 ($10, all ages) at Schubas.

On sale noon Saturday

New Master Sounds, The Hue, Thursday, Dec. 30 ($15, 21+) at Double Door.

The Virgins

On sale 10 a.m. Tuesday

Dustin Kensrue, Matt Pryor, Chris Conley, Anthony Raneri, Saturday, Jan. 31 ($13-$15, all ages) at Subterranean.

On sale now

Dandy Warhols, Wednesday, Dec. 31 ($55-$65, 18+) at Metro.

Smashing Pumpkins, Sunday, Dec. 7 ($45, all ages) at Aragon.

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NOTE: Postponed Nov. 22 Auditorium White Crosses show rescheduled to Dec. 8. Tickets purchased for Nov. 22 honored Dec. 8

Frost & found

After hiatus, Second Frost reunites and finds musicians with right fit

By Stephen Markley
FOR REDEYE

Creative partnerships often spring up in unlikely places. After all, who would have thought that a couple of music geeks in Liverpool, England, would change rock 'n' roll?

Travis Atkinson and Michael Reed may not be aiming for Beatles heights, but their successful collaboration in the blues-rock band Second Frost began nearly a decade ago when they randomly were paired as freshman roommates in a University of Michigan dorm.

"It's amazing how far we've come," said Reed, who plays electric guitar. "We started just trying to figure out how to play together."

Atkinson, who sings and plays acoustic guitar, agreed.

"I was into acoustic stuff; Mike was a Rush guy, and we just kind of figured out how to make it work," he said.

The partnership led them to form a band that disintegrated upon graduation. Reed headed to Detroit while Atkinson landed in Chicago.

"Finally, when Mike transferred to Chicago ... we decided to give it another shot," Atkinson said.

Playing open mic nights led them to seek out a bass player and drummers. **Craigslist.com** auditions proved fruitless.

"It was hard finding the right fit," Reed said. "Both musically and with the age range. I'm 26; Travis is 27. And we wanted people who were at the same stage as us with the same goals."

Through friends of friends, the duo found drummer Reggie Smith and bassist Nate Johnson. Second Frost—named for the section of the dorm where Atkinson and Reed first roomed together—was born.

Culling together the varied musical interests of all four men has led Second Frost to a "fusion sound," as Atkinson calls it. "Acoustic elements, blues, rock—we basically just keep it so that no two songs sound the same," he said.

Reed added: "Right now we want to keep our focus on expanding as musicians and challenging ourselves."

This means staying on the scene in Chicago and cutting their first EP, which is self-titled.

"Eventually, we'd like to broaden our base and play around the Midwest," Atkinson said. "That's the next step."

STEPHEN MARKLEY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

chitunes

Second Frost
When: 8:30 p.m. Wednesday
Where: Tonic Room, 2447 N. Halsted St.
Listen to Second Frost's "Jump In My Car" at **redeyechicago.com/chitunes**

Second Frost

5 questions for Fred LeBlanc of Cowboy Mouth

Fred LeBlanc of Cowboy Mouth offers an interesting description of his New Orleans rock band's live show.

"Cowboy Mouth is about pretending that you're 5 years old, naked as a jaybird and about to turn the hose on your parents, and there's not a damn thing they can do about it," says drummer and lead singer Fred LeBlanc.

LeBlanc, touring for the band's latest CD, "Fearless," answered a few questions recently.

POPMATTERS.COM

MCT PHOTO

Cowboy Mouth
When: 7 p.m. Saturday
Where: Clearwater Theater, 96 W. Main St., West Dundee

The greatest album, ever?
It's a tossup between "Revolver" by the Beatles, "40 Greatest Hits" by Hank Williams Sr. and/or "From Here to Eternity" by The Clash.

The best piece of advice you actually followed?
Bo Diddley told me once when Cowboy Mouth opened for him years ago that all anyone really needed to do to live a quality life was to "keep it simple, and think of church." I try. I don't always succeed, but I try.

The best thing you ever bought, stole or borrowed?
There's a Solomon Burke live album I had when I was a boy where, during the middle of one of his speeches to the audience he asks them, "Are you with me?" I never meant to borrow or steal it at all. But I relistened to that album many years later and heard that phrase. It must've stuck in my subconscious because I got a lot of miles out of it.

Essential to life: coffee, vodka, cigarettes, chocolate or ...?
A good mental attitude. It's the way you see the world that determines the way that, ultimately, the world sees you.

What are you working on now?
We have a brand new album called "Fearless." I think it is one of the very best things we have ever done, and we are all stoked to be touring behind it. See ya out on the road!

On the download

Top downloaded songs from Nov. 17-24

Chicago Top 10

No.	Song, Artist	LW
1	"Can't Believe It" T-Pain	1
2	"Single Ladies" Beyonce	4
3	"Right Now (Na Na Na)" Akon	8
4	"Let It Rock" Kevin Rudolf	6
5	"Whatever You Like" T.I.	2
6	"Hot N Cold" Katy Perry	5
7	"Mad" Ne-Yo	32
8	"Live Your Life" T.I. w/ Rihanna	9
9	"If I Were A Boy" Beyonce	3
10	"Forever" Chris Brown	11

National Top 10

No.	Song, Artist	LW
1	"Can't Believe It" T-Pain	1
2	"Single Ladies" Beyonce	8
3	"Right Now (Na Na Na)" Akon	5
4	"Let It Rock" Kevin Rudolf	7
5	"Whatever You Like" T.I.	3
6	"Hot N Cold" Katy Perry	6
7	"So Fly" Slim	13
8	"Swing" Savage	12
9	"Mad" Ne-Yo	45
10	"Live Your Life" T.I. w/ Rihanna	9

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$3,995·

1995 HONDA DEL SOL
Auto! Stk. #LP1220A
$3,995·

1994 GMC SONOMA
Stk. #LP1170B
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1997 HONDA CIVIC
AT, AC Stk. #LP1095A
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1998 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO
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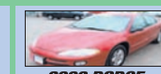

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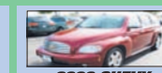

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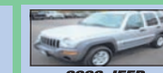

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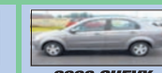

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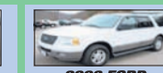

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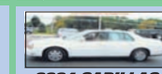

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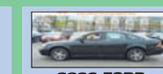

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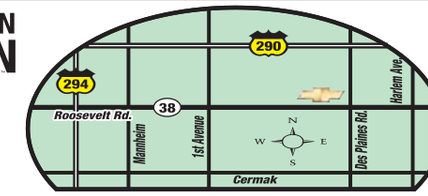

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pop

Crazy for characters

Actors vie for audiences' attention, award buzz during holiday movie season

The Denver Post

Real-life gay rights pioneer Harvey Milk is getting big-screen time in the new film "Milk," but he isn't the only strong character moviegoers will meet in the coming weeks. As good as Sean Penn is playing Milk, there are other performers who will be vying for kudos during this award season. Like Penn, some inhabit the story of real-life characters. Others promise to breathe real-life drama into their reel-life characters. Here are some of the compelling characters in films released in time to qualify for Oscars.

Lady Sarah Ashley
"AUSTRALIA"
Out now

Aussie Nicole Kidman plays an English woman who heads down under when her husband refuses to get rid of his ranch. He hopes to break a beef monopoly by selling his herd to the military. Instead, he meets his end. She meets a driver, played by Hugh Jackman. The big-country, big-canvas movie, set on the eve of World War II, reteams Kidman and director Baz Luhrmann ("Moulin Rouge!").

Marley
"MARLEY & ME"
Out Christmas Day

A dog's beloved companion writes a story about him. The wagging tale becomes a script. The screenplay becomes a movie, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston as the proud caretakers of an unruly yellow Lab.

Col. Claus von Stauffenberg
"VALKYRIE"
Out Christmas Day

Tom Cruise plays one of the leading figures in the German Resistance to Adolf Hitler and Nazism in director Bryan Singer's thriller about the plot to assassinate Hitler. The movie reunites the director with "The Usual Suspects" scribe Christopher McQuarrie.

Richard Nixon
"FROST/NIXON"
Out Dec. 12

Frank Langella's "portrayal of Nixon is one of those made-for-the-stage studies in controlled excess in which larger-than-life seems truer-to-life than merely life-size ever could. No screen, big or small, could accommodate such showy grandeur." Director Ron Howard hopes this New York Times appraisal doesn't hold true as he brings Peter Morgan's play about the interviews British talk-show host David Frost conducted with Nixon after his resignation to the big screen. A good hedge: Langella reprising his Tony-winning turn.

Sister Aloysius
"DOUBT"
Out Dec. 19

Meryl Streep heads this season's cast-to-beat in John Patrick Shanley's adaptation of his phenomenal, philosophical play. Streep is a nun hell-bent on destroying well-liked Father Brendan (Philip Seymour Hoffman) for transgressions that may or may not have occurred. Amy Adams is Sister James.

Benjamin Button
"THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON"
Out Christmas Day

The title character in this adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's short fable ages backward. The movie follows Benjamin (Brad Pitt) from his beginning as an old infant in 1920s New Orleans and into the 21st Century. Cate Blanchett also stars.

Etta James
"CADILLAC RECORDS"
Out Dec. 5

Beyonce Knowles dons the wig and the earthy attitude of the rock, blues and Grammy Hall of Famer who hit it out of the park with "At Last." The Dreamgirl is just one of the draws in writer-director Darnell Martin's story about the rise of Chicago-based Chess Records. Oscar winner Adrien Brody stars as Leonard Chess. Jeffrey Wright plays Muddy Waters. Mos Def steps up as Chuck Berry.

Ben Thomas
"SEVEN POUNDS"
Out Dec. 19

Death and the tax man are the subject of this drama, starring Will Smith as a troubled IRS agent who seeks redemption by changing the lives of seven strangers. Rosario Dawson plays a woman with a heart ailment. Woody Harrelson plays a blind telemarketer. If Thomas has his way, his gifts will keep on giving.

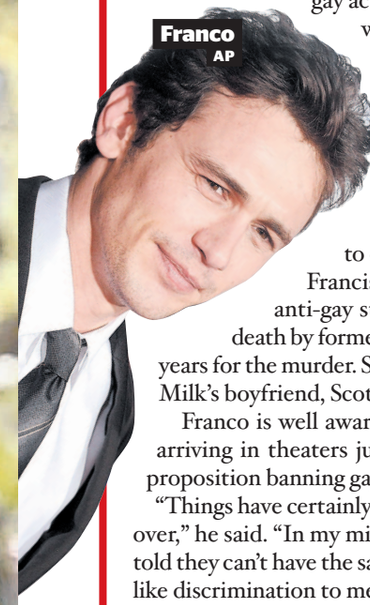
Sean Penn plays Harvey Milk in "Milk."
FOCUS FEATURES

Franco says gay rights film 'Milk' is much more

Detroit News

James Franco was born the same year that Harvey Milk was killed: 1978.

But Franco, who grew up in Palo Alto, Calif., less than 40 miles from the spot where Milk was gunned down, knew little about the gay activist before he signed on to the film "Milk," which opened Wednesday.



Franco
AP

"When I first started researching this, there was something about Harvey that seemed familiar, but I didn't know much about him," Franco said. "I found it kind of sad that growing up in the Bay area, I wasn't taught anything about Harvey Milk."

Milk was the first openly gay man elected to office in America, winning a race for the San Francisco board of supervisors. After defeating an anti-gay state proposition in the '70s, he was shot to death by former supervisor Dan White, who served just five years for the murder. Sean Penn plays Milk in the film; Franco plays Milk's boyfriend, Scott Smith.

Franco is well aware of the odd coincidence that finds "Milk" arriving in theaters just after California voters approved a state proposition banning gay marriage.

"Things have certainly changed, but the fight for equal rights is not over," he said. "In my mind, a group of people are being isolated and told they can't have the same rights as everybody else, and that sounds like discrimination to me, and it should be fought."

Franco says "Milk" shouldn't be seen only as a story about a gay hero. "I hope it just gets the message across of here's somebody fighting for freedom," he said. "And that is not a gay issue, it's a civil rights issue across the board. Everybody should be able to relate to that."

>> WATCH VIDEO OF FRANCO TALKING ABOUT KISSING SEAN PENN AT *redeyechicago.com/showpatrol*.

4 FRANCO CHARACTERS

JAMES DEAN
The 2001 TV movie "James Dean," in which he played the troubled actor, is considered Franco's breakthrough.

HARRY OSBORN
Franco is perhaps best known for playing the man who moonlights as villain Green Goblin in the "Spider-Man" films.

SAUL SILVER
He drew rave reviews for his loopy performance as the pot dealer in this summer's "Pineapple Express."

ALLEN GINSBERG
Franco's getting set to play the radical gay poet in the film "Howl."

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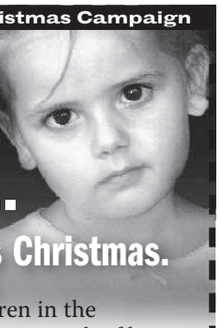

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PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
NC-17 - No one 17 and under admitted

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)
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(312) 255-9340
Show times change daily ♿

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 11:45,2:30,5:15,7:45,10:30
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) 12:00,2:45,5:30,8:15,10:50
- **Bolt** (PG) 11:30,2:15,4:45,7:10,9:40
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 11:00,1:00,2:00,4:00,5:00,7:00,8:00,10:00,11:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 11:15,12:15,1:45,3:00,4:30,5:45, 7:30,8:30,10:15,11:15
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 11:10,1:30,4:15,6:45,9:30
- **Role Models** (R) 3:45,9:50
- AMC Select **Changeling** (R) 12:30,6:30

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)
2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Milk** (R) 1:30,2:40,4:30,6:30,7:30,9:45,10:30
- **Name Is Bruce** (R) 1:45,4:30,7:30,10:15
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:45,2:30,4:40,6:15,7:45,9:15,10:30
- **Let the Right** (R) 2:05,4:50,7:40,10:25
- **Synecdoche** (R) 1:40,4:35,7:35,10:20

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)
2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 10:30,11:30,1:20,2:15,4:40,5:20, 7:20,8:10,10:00,10:40
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 9:45,10:50,12:15,1:10,2:45,3:50,5:10, 6:40,7:40,9:10,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 10:00,11:00,12:20,1:00,2:00,3:10,4:00, 4:50,6:20,7:00,7:50,9:20,9:55,10:50
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 10:10,12:40,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:20
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) ★ 9:50,11:15,12:10,1:50,2:30,4:15,5:00,6:50, 7:30,9:15,9:50
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 10:40,12:30,1:45,3:20,4:30,6:10, 6:30,7:15,9:00,9:40,10:10
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 11:10,11:20,1:30,1:40,4:10,4:20,7:10,9:45

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:15,2:15,4:15,6:15,8:15,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 11:30,1:30,3:30,5:30,7:30,9:30
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) ★ 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
(773) 582-1839
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 10:45,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,10:00
- **Australia** (PG–13) 11:40,3:15,6:30,9:45
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) 11:30,12:30,2:00,3:00,4:30,5:30,7:00, 8:00,9:20,10:20
- **Bolt** (PG) 11:45,1:00,2:10,3:15,4:30,5:30,6:50,7:50,9:10,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 11:00,12:45,1:45,3:45,4:45,6:30,7:30,9:15,10:15
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 1:00,2:30,3:30,5:10,6:10,7:40,8:45,10:10
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 11:20,12:30,1:30,2:40,3:40,5:00,5:50,8:00,10:10
- **Soul Men** (R) 11:50,2:15,4:40,7:10,9:40
- **Role Models** (R) 11:50,2:30,4:50,7:20,9:50
- **Saw V** (R) 7:15,9:30
- **HS Musical 3** (G) 11:55 A.M.

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
312-846-2800

- **Muppet Fairy** (NR) 2:00
- **Kings of** (NR) 2:15,4:15,6:45
- **Dog City** (NR) 4:00
- **The Storyteller** (NR)
- **Passi/Pow** (NR) 7:00

LINCOLN VILLAGE THEATER
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LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- **Role Models** (R) 2:10,4:20,6:25,8:40
- **HS Musical 3** (G) 2:00,4:05,6:10,8:20
- **The Dark Knight** (PG–13) 2:15,5:25,8:10
- **BH Chihuahua** (PG) 2:00,4:10,6:20,8:30

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **Christmas Tale** (NR) 2:30,5:30,8:30
- **Sound of Music** (NR) 7:00 P.M.
- **Repo-Opera** (R) 12:00 Midnight
- **Reservoir Dogs** (R) 12:00 Midnight

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)
1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(312) 642-7500
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) 11:00,1:15,3:30,5:40,8:00,10:10
- **JCVD** (R) 10:20 P.M.
- **Zack and Miri** (R) 7:15,9:40
- AMC Select **Happy-Go-Lucky** (R) 11:10,1:50,4:30
- **I've Loved You** (PG–13) 11:20,2:00
- AMC Select **W.** (PG–13) 4:40,7:30
- AMC Select **Rachel Getting** (R) 11:30,2:10,4:50,7:40,10:15

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street
847-765-7262
Show times change daily

- AMC Select **Milk** (R) 10:15,12:30,1:30,3:45,4:45,7:00,8:00,10:20,11:20
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 10:40,11:40,1:10,2:10,3:45,4:45,6:20, 7:20,9:00,10:00,11:40
- **Australia** (PG–13) 11:00,2:45,3:45,6:30,7:30,10:15,11:15
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) 11:30,2:15,5:10,8:05,11:00
- **Bolt** (PG) 10:00,12:35,12:40,2:55,5:30,8:20,11:10
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) ◆ 11:00,1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 10:05,11:05,12:05,1:10,2:10,3:10,4:15,5:15, 6:15,7:25,8:20,9:20,10:30,11:30
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) 10:50,1:25,3:50,6:10,8:40,11:05
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 10:30,11:15,12:00,1:30,2:15,3:00, 4:30,5:15,6:00,7:15,8:00,8:45,10:15,11:00,11:45
- AMC Select **Slumdog Mill** (R) 10:20,11:20,1:20,2:20,4:20, 5:20,7:30,8:30,10:45,11:45
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 10:10,12:40,3:05,5:35,8:10,10:35
- **Role Models** (R) 8:15,10:40
- AMC Select **Changeling** (R) 10:05,1:35,4:50
- **HS Musical 3** (G) 10:00 A.M.
- AMC Select **Rachel Getting** (R) 10:35,1:20,4:05

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)
7000 Carperter Rd., Skokie
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 10:50,12:30,2:40,4:20,6:10,8:20,9:45,11:50
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 11:30,2:10,5:00,7:30,10:00,12:45
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:40,1:10,3:00,4:10,5:30,6:50,7:50, 9:30,10:15,12:01,12:50
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 11:10,12:10,1:00,1:30,2:00,3:20,4:00,4:30, 5:10,6:30,7:00,7:40,8:10,9:20,9:55,10:30,11:10,12:30
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 11:20,12:20,12:50,1:50,2:50,3:40,4:15,5:20,6:05,6:40, 8:40,9:10,11:20,11:30
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) ★ 11:50,2:20,4:45,7:10,9:40,12:10
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 11:00,12:45,1:40,3:30,4:40,6:20, 7:20,8:00,9:00,10:25,10:40,11:40
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 12:00,2:30,4:50,7:15,9:50,12:20
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) 10:45,1:20,3:50,6:45,9:15,12:15
- **Role Models** (R) 11:40,2:15,5:15,7:45,10:10,12:40

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 10:45,12:30,2:15,4:15,6:10,8:00,9:40
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 10:00,12:20,2:40,5:00,7:30,9:50
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 10:10,12:10,1:00,3:15,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:10,10:00
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 11:30,2:00,4:40,7:10,9:30
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 10:30,11:15,12:45,1:30,2:30,3:45, 4:30,5:15,6:30,7:20,7:50,9:20,10:10,10:30
- **Role Models** (R) 11:00,1:45,4:50,7:40,10:20
- **Changeling** (R) 11:45,3:30,6:40,9:45

SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Australia** (PG–13) 10:50,2:20,6:10,9:45
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) 10:30,1:20,2:10,4:10,5:00,6:40,7:30,9:20,10:00
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 9:50,12:15,2:40,5:10,7:45,10:20
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 10:00,10:40,12:30,1:00,1:30,3:20,4:00,4:40, 6:20,7:00,7:40,9:10,10:10,10:40
- **Bolt** (PG) 10:20,12:20,1:10,2:00,2:50,3:40,4:30,5:20,6:30,7:20, 7:50,9:00,9:50,10:15
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:40,1:45,3:50,4:20,6:45,7:15,9:40,10:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 9:45,12:10,2:30,4:50,7:10,9:30
- **Role Models** (R) 12:50,6:50
- **Soul Men** (R) 10:10,3:30,9:15

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)
4779 W. Cermak
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 10:50,2:20,6:10,9:55
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 10:10,1:20,2:10,4:10,5:00,6:40,7:40,9:20,10:20
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 10:30,12:10,12:50,2:30,3:10,4:50,5:30, 7:10,8:00,9:45,9:45
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 10:00,10:40,12:30,1:00,1:40,3:20,4:00, 4:40,6:20,7:00,7:45,9:10,10:10,10:40
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 10:20,12:20,1:10,2:00,2:45,3:40,4:30,5:15,6:30,7:20, 7:50,9:00,9:50,9:50
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:40,1:30,3:50,4:20,6:45,7:30,9:30,10:00,10:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:50,4:15,6:50,9:40
- **Role Models** (R) 10:15

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street
630-444-FILM #560

- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) 1:00,3:15,5:25,7:35,9:45
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 11:00,1:00,3:05,5:10,7:15,9:20
- **Australia** (PG–13) 11:50,3:10,6:30,9:50
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 11:00,1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:00,2:20,4:40,7:05,9:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 11:00,1:05,3:10,5:15,7:20,9:25

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
1715 MAPLE AVE.
(847)492-0123 ♿

- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 11:40,1:20,3:10,4:50,6:40,8:25,10:10
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:10,1:15,2:25,3:35,4:45,6:00,7:10, 8:20,9:30,10:35
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 11:50,2:15,4:45,7:15,9:40
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 11:30,12:20,1:10,2:00,2:50,3:40,4:30,5:20,6:10,7:00, 7:50,9:25,10:20
- **Changeling** (R) 8:40
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 11:35,1:55,4:15,6:35,8:55
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:30,1:40,2:20,3:05,4:30,5:50,7:10, 7:40,8:30,10:00
- **Rachel Getting** (R) 11:40,5:00,10:20
- **Role Models** (R) 11:35,2:05,4:35,7:05,9:35
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 11:25,1:05,2:30,4:05,5:25,7:15,8:35,10:05
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) ★ 12:15,2:40,5:05,7:30,10:10
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 11:45,1:00,2:35,3:55,5:30,6:50,8:15,9:50

Daniel Craig is back as James Bond in "Quantum of Solace." SONY PICTURES

Movie name blame

We thought no James Bond movie could have a worse title than "Octopussy." We were wrong. The latest 007 adventure, "Quantum of Solace," takes the title. This makes us nostalgic for other movies with horrible tags. HARTFORD COURANT

BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
Fans of the video game it's based on understood it. Nobody else did.

THE HUMAN STAIN
Is this something you clean off the baby car seat?

THE RATS ARE COMING! THE WEREWOLVES ARE HERE!
Can't the rats eat the werewolves and all the humans live happily ever after?

PHFFFT
This sounds like a release of bodily gases. Gassy honorable mentions: "Eegah" and "Sssssssss."

MOTHER, MAY I SLEEP WITH DANGER?
How is a mother supposed to respond? This was a TV movie, but we had to squeeze it in.

KRAKATOA, EAST OF JAVA
Krakatoa is west of Java. Inaccuracy honorable mention: "Leonard Part 6." There were no Leonards Part 1 through 5.

HELLS ANGELS ON WHEELS
Where else are Hell's Angels supposed to be? Redundancy honorable mention: "Attack of the Beast Creatures."

FREE WILLY
This sounds like porn too.

FEELING MINNESOTA
The low point of the gerund trend. Gerund honorable mention: "Serving Sara." Both titles sound like porn.

OH DAD, POOR DAD, MAMA'S HUNG YOU IN THE CLOSET AND I'M FEELING SO SAD
Just stunningly awful.

GIGLI
By the time we ran through all the pronunciation options ("giggly"? "jiggly"?) and got to the right answer, "zhee-lee," the critics had chimed in, and remembering the name became pointless.

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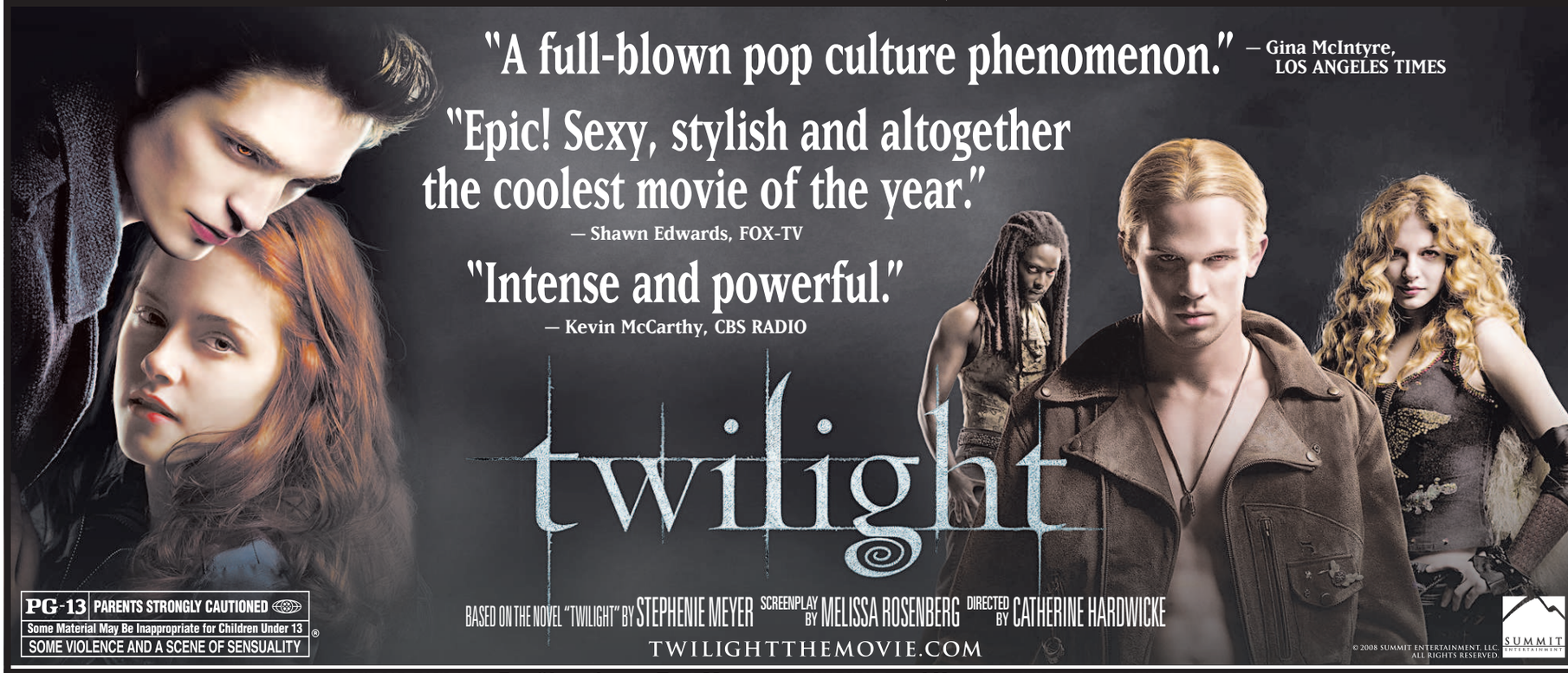

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SEE DIRECTORY OR CALL THEATER FOR SHOWTIMES

Jackman in "Australia"
20TH CENTURY FOX

Jackman ratchets up the heat in 'Australia'

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Hugh Jackman worried about a certain shirtless scene in his new film "Australia," but not because he's modest about his body.

The star was concerned that audiences wouldn't like that director Baz Luhrmann so blatantly stole the scene from the classic film "The African Queen."

"It's so obviously patterned on that style, I said to Baz, 'I'm worried people are going to be laughing in the wrong way,' " the 40-year-old said. "He said, 'If we're bold, really bold, trust me, they're going to get it.' "

Maybe. Maybe not. With Jackman's muscles on display, it's doubtful anyone in the audience will be pondering cinematic precedents.

For fans, it's the money shot that more than confirms the Aussie's designation last week as People's Sexiest Man Alive.

You don't get huge like that from walking the dog. Jackman hits the gym for an hour each morning before reporting to work, and maintains a dietary regimen of eating every three hours from early in the day.

"It keeps your metabolism going, and that really helped during this production," he said. "We had really long days, physical days, really hot days."

Shooting "Australia" took eight months, but the hard work began long before the cameras started rolling.

"We did a full month of rehearsals and prestaging," Jackman said. "We workshopped for three months before that. The horse riding and other elements I spent a full 10 months on before that."

There was one detail he was disappointed didn't make it into the film. "In the script, Drover drives a car while rolling a cigarette with one hand. I said, 'That's a really cool thing. I've never seen that before.'

"So for months, I was practicing hand-rolling cigarettes all day long, even when I was watching TV, until I got it down," he said. "It got cut eventually."

For Jackman, a Sydney native, going on location in Queensland was a family affair. Wife Deborra-Lee Furness and children Oscar, 8, and Ava, 3, were in tow.

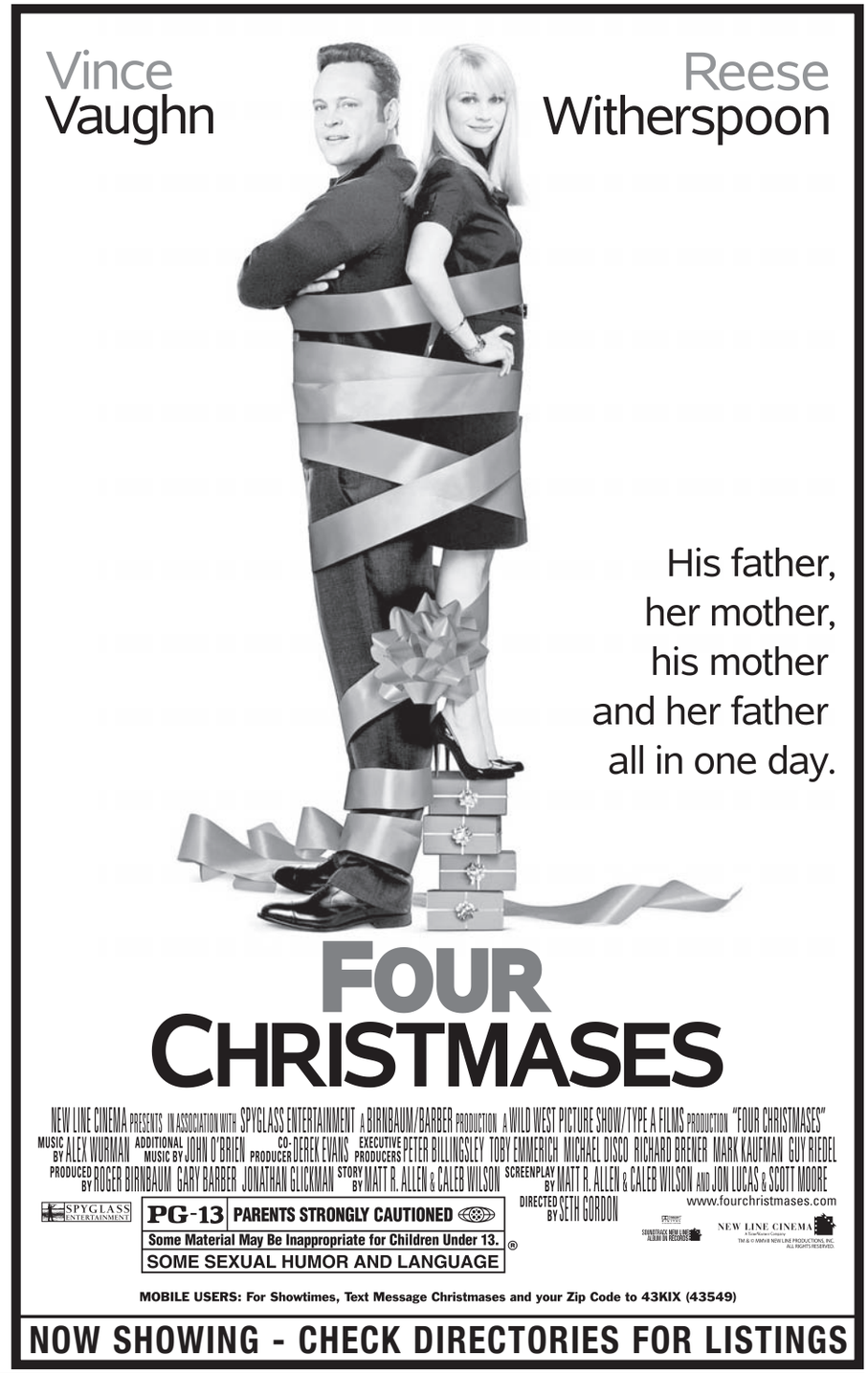
"My wife and I, when we got married, we decided not to be apart for more than two weeks," Jackman said.

For Oscar, living in the Outback was an 8-year-old's fantasy camp. He'd wake up in the morning and head right out to the animal pens. After being tutored with the cast's aborigine children, he'd spend the afternoon exploring the region's spectacular terrain.

"He cried his eyes out when we had to go back to the city," Jackman said.

Here's the story

"Australia," set in the days leading up to WW II, tells the story of an English noblewoman (Nicole Kidman) who travels to Australia to save her dusty cattle station and recruits a rugged rancher (Hugh Jackman) to help.



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How to make the most of Black Friday deals

The Washington Post

Black Friday—the official kickoff to the holiday shopping season.

People either happily ignore it or embrace it in all its frenzied glory.

Dan de Grandpre, founder of **dealnews.com**, offered some insight into what shoppers should expect on Friday and the Monday after Thanksgiving, the day many people hit the online stores.

Here are his best tips for shopping those two days:

CHECK ONLINE

Before you set out for that Black Friday shopping trip, check the store's online sites for deals. De Grandpre says many stores will be offering the same merchandise and discounts in their online stores as their brick-and-mortar shops. Checking online first will save you the aggravation and hassle of venturing out to the mall.

CYBER MONDAY

Cyber Monday will be the day to get deals at online-only stores like **overstock.com** and **buy.com**. **Smartbargains.com**, JoS. A. Bank, Discovery Channel and HSN are some other places to check out on Monday. The stores that are normally the stars on Black Friday, like Wal-Mart and Kohl's, also will have Cyber Monday sales, but they won't be as good as their Black Friday deals.

WAIT ... MAYBE?

Normally, de Grandpre and other retail experts say Black Friday and Cyber Monday are the best days to shop for the holidays. But this year, retailers are more desperate than ever so there's a good chance that prices will continue to drop. In fact, many retailers are counting on a lucrative Thanksgiving weekend. If it doesn't happen, you may be seeing liquidation sales.

GO GADGETS

The best products to buy on Black Friday will be electronics, such as low-end TVs and laptops.

» De Grandpre predicts that shoppers will be able to snag 50-inch plasmas and 46-inch LCD TVs for under $1,000. You'll also find some basic, lower-priced TVs for around $300.

» GPS navigation systems made by Garmin and Tom Tom will be around $100.

» Apple will have one of its best sales of the season, de Grandpre says. Most of its merchandise—from iPods to laptops—will be marked down.

» Best Buy is offering 10 percent off Apple gear to add a little competition for the Apple stores.

JEWELRY

If you're in the market for high-end jewelry like an engagement ring, de Grandpre says to shop online first at sites like **ice.com**, **diamond.com** and **bluenile.com**, print out their prices and deals and take them to your local jeweler. They may be in a position to match the deal.

GIFT CARDS?

Be careful with mail-in rebates and gift cards. Not to be too doom-and-gloom, but you never know which retailer will go under next. A gift card or rebate may become worthless if the retailer goes bye-bye.

Apple will have one of its best sales of the season with everything from iPods to laptops marked down.

AP FILE

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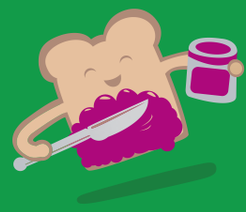

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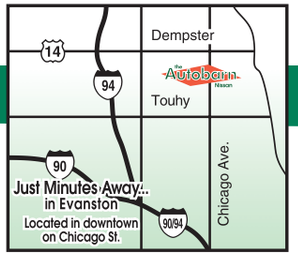

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7	1	5	6	9	3	2	4	8
6	8	4	1	2	7	3	9	5
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5	2	8	7	6	9	1	3	4
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ACROSS
1 3/17 honoree
6 Chi-town paper
10 Cotillion
14 The Velvet Fog
15 Discourteous
16 Plains tribe
17 Pueblo block
18 Book after Joel
19 Lena or Ken
20 Reduction in cost
22 Prolonged snowstorm
24 Frenzy
26 Eponymous engine
27 Showy bloom
28 Writer Deighton
29 Drunk
32 Ankle-length
34 Sequence
39 Light beige
40 Like some tennis doubles
42 Spanish pot
43 Brutal person
45 Wheel shaft
46 Easter bloom
47 Silvery gray
49 As soon as
51 Labor action
55 Dusk
59 Ghostly manifestation
61 James or Marilyn
62 Antarctic sea
63 Rifles and such
65 Freak out
66 Caesar's dying question
67 Paper mulberry tree bark
68 Confederacy adversary
69 Latin 101 word
70 Swelled heads
71 Loafer insert

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1 Hidden loot
2 NBC morning show
3 Alta. and Ont.
4 Status-seeking
5 Adolescent, so to speak
6 La-la lead-in
7 Cuban dance
8 Adored one
9 Not pertinent to
10 Hooch
11 Rand McNally tome
12 French river
13 Tennis great Ivan
21 Fairy tale brother
23 Brass component
25 Biblical prophet
28 Hide out
29 Internet
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31 Anti-gun-control grp.
33 Poison warning
35 Golfer's dream
36 Son-in-law of Muhammad
37 Down with something
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41 Stonewashed material
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51 Lively frolic
52 Moves briskly
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BY JIM WALSH

Name that act

RedEye tries out our trusty, slightly rusty name generator

Good Charlotte rocker Joel Madden's biggest regret? It has nothing to do with his love life, business investments, artistic sensibilities or the other decisions he's made on life's journey. No, it's all about the band name. "I wish someone had stopped us from naming ourselves Good Charlotte," Madden recently told **foxnews.com**'s Pop Tarts celeb gossip blog. "It's really not the greatest name; we named it after a children's book." C'mon, Joel, Good Charlotte isn't the worst band name in the world! RedEye can think of plenty of other music monikers that should have gotten nixed before the performers hit the stage. REDEYE

The Killers

WHY IT'S BAD: Death? Mayhem? Doesn't really jell with the indie-pop vibe of the Las Vegas quartet.

REDEYE'S SUGGESTION: Next time, do something a little more Vegas-y—like The Casinos!

Lady Gaga

WHY IT'S BAD: Simply put, it sounds like baby talk.

REDEYE'S SUGGESTION: Flip it and reverse it—and change your "Gs" to "Rs." RaRa Lady fits the dance vibe better, doesn't it?

The Cheetah Girls

WHY IT'S BAD: Calls to mind animal-teen hybrids like "Teen Wolf." Nobody wants to be reminded of "Teen Wolf."

REDEYE'S SUGGESTION: We're stumped. Those kids seem to be doing better than all right without our help anyway.

Nickelback

WHY IT'S BAD: Sounds like a lame dime-store rebate offer. (If there were such things as dime stores anymore, that is.)

REDEYE'S SUGGESTION: Talk with The Killers about getting something a little edgier.

T-Pain

WHY IT'S BAD: The rapper's initials are veering dangerously close to T.P. territory.

REDEYE'S SUGGESTION: Consider swapping the "T" for a "C." C-Pain sounds just as good.

O.A.R.

WHY IT'S BAD: We know it's an acronym. Still reminds us of boating equipment.

REDEYE'S SUGGESTION: If your band name is too long to be spelled out, consider a different band name.

Pink

WHY IT'S BAD: What is that, just a color? Too bad "lame" isn't a color, because that describes Pink's choice for a stage name.

REDEYE'S SUGGESTION: When going with a one-word stage name, stick to actual names--like Madonna and Beyonce.

Pink
SONY BMG

GET US ON YOUR PHONE
Get your celeb fix any time you want it. Go to **redeyechicago.com** on your mobile phone.

Thirsty for justice

Did you get your free Dr Pepper in celebration of Guns N' Roses' "Chinese Democracy," which dropped Sunday? Apparently many fans were irked they were blocked for hours from the site and a phone line, which ticked off Axl Rose, The New York Times reported. Rose's lawyers earlier this week sent a harshly worded letter to the manufacturer complaining of its "appalling failure to make good on a promise it made to the American public," and demanded a public apology, more time for fans and payment for piggybacking on the "Chinese Democracy" publicity.

Do ask, do tell

"90210" star Shenae Grimes has a message to all the gossip girls and guys wondering whether she's the second coming of Shannen Doherty or if she has an eating disorder: Don't believe everything you read. "Nobody has asked me about it. I really can't help what someone thinks of me because they are reading a paper and choosing to believe it," Grimes tells People magazine.

One Bond to another

Roger Moore says Daniel Craig is "marvelous" as super spy 007 James Bond. Talking to reporters Thursday at an event in Hong Kong to promote his autobiography "My Word Is My Bond," Moore said Craig brought his own spin to the role. It should be noted he hasn't even seen "Quantum of Solace."

U.S. Cellular **txtable**

Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to **dlhernandez@tribune.com.** For Friday, we have Alma Garcia. Does she look like Olga Kurylenko? Text "**twin**" and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. Dead on 2. Way off

Garcia

Kurylenko

Pulse monitor

Celeb news, charted for your pleasure

SCANDALOUS

A-Rod front and center at Madonna's concert
The baseball star is not keeping a low profile when it comes to the Material Mom.

Michael Phelps spends T-Day with fam, girlfriend
The Olympic gold medalist brings home new girlfriend ... who is a cocktail waitress who works in Sin City. Really?

Natalie Portman doesn't do celibacy
The actress reportedly turned down a role of a young nun in the new movie "Doubt" because "she didn't understand celibacy."

Linda Hogan says "show me the money"
Hulk Hogan's ex says the $40,000-per-month in support she's receiving is a "drop in the bucket," and she wants more.

Bruce Willis wins lawsuit
A Malaysian technology conglomerate has repaid $900,000 to Bruce Willis, who sued demanding a refund of his investment. We're falling asleep writing that. Maybe it was the turkey.

SNOOZEWORTHY

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[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition

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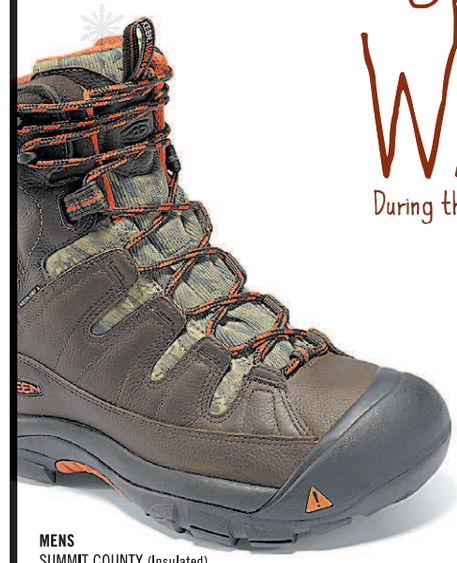
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red hot

REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

READY TO 'ROCK'

Reese Witherspoon wants to get in on the "30 Rock" action.

There are no plans yet, but the "Four Christmases" star told E! News she would love to make an appearance on the NBC show.

"Oh, sure. Yeah. I love Tina [Fey], and I think she does such a great job, and she really understands comedy for women."

Translation: Uh, hellooo! I'm, like, an Oscar-winner. Call me.

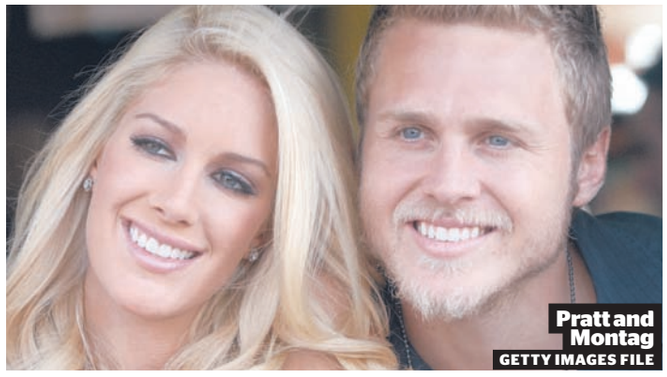
Married. Really?

Oh no they *didn't*! No, really—they didn't.

Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt's wedding last week in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, was symbolic and not legally binding, The Associated Press reports.

Pratt laughed off the reports of the faux nuptials saying, "We've never been happier."

"Like other elopements that happen outside the country, we'll take care of the legal details when we get home," "The Hills" stars said Wednesday in a statement provided by Us Weekly magazine, according to AP.



Pratt and Montag

GETTY IMAGES FILE

THE VELVET ROPE

Now serving

You've been served ... by celebs.

To give back on Thanksgiving, rapper T.I. served food at Atlanta's Turner Field.

"It's a pleasure for me to help service those who are definitely in need of the service," T.I. said.

T.I. also raised $100,000 for Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless during a local radio show. Meanwhile, another Atlanta rapper, Young Jeezy, donated $5,000.

In L.A., celebs including Jennifer Love Hewitt and Cindy Crawford served dinner at the Los Angeles Mission and Anne Douglas Center's Thanksgiving Meal for the Homeless.

Pregnancy test

Amid rumors that Mariah Carey (left) is expecting, Ellen DeGeneres tried a different approach to get to the bottom of it all: by offering the singer some bubbly. On DeGeneres' show Wednesday, the talk show host caught Carey off-guard with a toast. Flustered, Carey said it was too early to drink at 3 p.m.

"I can't believe you did this to me, Ellen," Carey said, calling it "peer pressure."

DeGeneres then offered to toast NOT being pregnant. When Carey pretended to sip, DeGeneres said, "You're pregnant."

That Ellen!

Hot s'more mess

When a rock star and a rock-star chef don't like your dessert, you're probably not going to last on "Top Chef: New York."

That's why Richard packed his knives—and his bad banana s'mores—on Wednesday's episode, which had the contestants cooking a Thanksgiving meal for the Foo Fighters.

"Not only did it not taste good, but conceptually it was a mess," said guest judge Grant Achatz of Chicago's famed Alinea restaurant.

The band members weren't impressed either.

"Did somebody make the s'more guy mad?" lead singer Dave Grohl asked during the meal.

U.S. Cellular **txtable**

482,000

Number of copies of Beyonce's latest album "I Am ... Sasha Fierce" sold in its first week to top the Billboard pop album chart. It was her third album to debut at No. 1.

True or false? Beyonce sold more copies of "I Am ... Sasha Fierce" than her 2006 release "B-Day" in the first week. Text "**album**" and the number of your answer to **47383**.

1. True **2.** False